# THE READER

## A REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 121, Vol. V.

Saturday, April 22, 1865.

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PARIS.—AGENT FOR THE READER, MR. J. ROTHSCHILD, 43 Rue Saint-André-des-Arts, who will receive Subscriptions and forward Books intended for

CERMANY.—MR. F. A. BROCKHAUS, U Leipzig, having been appointed Agent for Leipzig and Northern Germany, it is requested that intending Subscribers will send their names to him. Books for Review may also be forwarded to him for enclosure in his Weekly Parcel.

PRUSSIA. - MESSRS. ASHER & Co., Berlin Agents for The Reader, will receive the names of Subscribers, and take charge of Books intended for Review.

NORTH OF EUROPE. MESSRS. ONCKEN, 10 grosser Barstrase, Hamburg, will supply The Reader, receive Books intended for Review, and forward Communications for the Editor.

INDIA: MADRAS. — MESSRS. GANTZ Brothers, 175 Mount Road, Madras, will register names of Subscribers on account of The Reader. Annual Subscription, including postage, 13 rupees.

PRACTICAL GEOLOGY.—KING'S
COLLEGE, LONDON.—PROFESSOR TENNANT, F.G.S.,
will commence a COURSE OF LECTURES, on FRIDAY
MORNING, APRIL 28th, at Nine o'clock, having especial reference to the application of Geology to Engineering, Mining,
Agriculture, and Architecture. The Lectures will be continued on each succeeding Wednesday and Friday, at the same
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The SCHOOL will RE-OPEN on Tuesday, the 25th April, for new Pupils, at 9.30 a.m. All boys must appear in their places, without fail, on Wednesday, the 26th, at 9.30.

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For classes for young beginners see distinct advertisement. with further particulars, may be obtained at the Office of the College.

CHARLES C. ATKINSON,

April 7, 1865.

Secretary to the Council.

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ROYAL LITERARY FUND.
THE SEVENTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER of
the Corporation will be held at the ALBION TAVERN,
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ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.
Society, for the Election of the President, Vice-Presidents,
Council, and Officers for the ensuing year, and for other business, will be held on WEDNESDAY, the 26th instant, at the
Society's House, 4 St. Martin's Place, Trafalgar Square.

The Chair will be taken at half-past Four o'clock precisely. W. S. W. VAUX, Honorary Secretary.

RT-UNION of LONDON.—The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING to receive the Council's Report, and to distribute the amount subscribed for the purchase of works of art, will be held at the New Theatre Royal Adelphi, on TUESDAY, APRIL 25, at half-past Eleven for Twelve o'clock, by the kind permission of Benjamin Webster, Esq. The receipt for the current year will procure admission for members and friends.

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LORD HOUGHTON in the Chair.

Dinner on the Table at 6 o'clock precisely. Tickets, including Wine, 1l. is. each, to be had of the Stewards; at Freemasons' Tavern; and of F. W. Maynard, Esq., Assistant-Secretary, 24 Old Bond-street, W.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—THIS AFTER-NOON.—BEETHOVEN'S CHORAL SYMPHONY.— After the Concert, the usual AFTERNOON PROMENADE, when the new Programme, the new Guinea Season Ticket, the Opera Concerts Stalls (in sets), and the Admission and Reserved Seats for the Rehearsal day of the Great Handel Festival, will be on sale.

For the two latter, early application is essential.

POYAL BOTANIC SOCIETY, REGENT'S PARK.—EXHIBITIONS of PLANTS, FLOWERS, and FRUIT, Wednesdays, May 24, June 14, and July 5; AMERICAN PLANTS, Mondays, June 5 and 12. Tickets to be obtained at the Gardens, on Vouchers from Fellows of the Society, price, on or before May 13, 4s., after that day, 5s.; or on the Exhibition days, 7s. 6d. each. THE LAST SPRING EXHIBITION will take place on Saturday next, April 29; Tickets 2s. 6d. each.

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THE TWELFTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF PICTURES, the Contributions of Artists of the French and Flemish Schools, IS NOW OPEN Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 6d.

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MUSICAL UNION.—TUESDAY, April 25, at Half-past Three, St. James's Hall.—Quartet G Minor, Haydn; Quintet E Flat, Plano, &c., Schumann; Quartet, No. 9 in C, Beethoven. Plano Solos, Chopin, Hiller, and Henselt. Artists, Joachim, Ries, Webb, and Platti. Planiste, Madame Clara Schumann. Visitons' Tickets, half a guinea each, to be had at Cramer & Co., Chappell & Co., Ollivier, Ashdown & Parry, and of Austin, at the Hall. Members can pay for Visitors at the Hall. Complaints of non-delivery of tickets and records, and notice of change of address, to be sent to 18 Hanover Square.

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## THE READER.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1865.

ACADEMIES: THEIR USE AND INFLUENCE.

SHORT time ago one of the sections of the French Institute had to elect a foreign associate. Several men were named as meriting the honour, but the choice of the members was practically restricted to three Englishmen-Mr. Gladstone, Dr. Whewell, and Mr. J. S. Mill. It would be difficult to have named any other trio among our countrymen that would have afforded more scope for speculation, for controversy, and for doubt. Each is distinguished, but in very different ways. Mr. Gladstone is the greatest Minister of Finance that the present century has seen. He has accomplished what even Pitt and Peel would have admitted to be impossible. For, the former could raise a large revenue by imposing ingeniously-devised taxes; the latter could frame a budget which imposed one great tax which burdened the possessors of income, and remitted another which bore equally hard on those who were rich or necessitous; but neither of them succeeded in diminishing the burden of taxation, and at the same time restricting its area. The distinguishing merit of Dr. Whewell is that his life has been devoted to the acquisition and exposition of the most multifarious knowledge. His claims to distinction rest rather on the number and weight of his books than on the originality and value of the doctrines contained in them. Of Mr. Mill we need say no more than that he has exposed with consummate ability the shortcomings of Dr. Whewell as a philosopher, and has established his own claims to the position in a manner which admits of no question. The Academy of Moral and Political Science rejected Dr. Whewell and Mr. Mill, and elected Mr. Gladstone. It has been said that this result was caused by the fact of many of its members having, in other and happier days, filled a post in France analogous to that which is now worthily filled by Mr. Gladstone in England; that, when Ministers of Finance, they thought themselves fortunate if they could produce budgets showing small deficits; that they understood each of Mr. Gladstone's budgets always showed a large surplus; consequently, that they could not withhold their suffrages from a man who had more than once performed feats which seemed to them almost miraculous. Be the explanation what it may, the fact remains unquestionable that Mr. Gladstone, who has not yet proved himself to be anything more than a brilliant Chancellor of the Exchequer, has been preferred to men who are professed thinkers and philosophical politicians.

Now, it matters little to us on whom any foreign body chooses to bestow an honour. We rate such honours very cheaply. We question if the recipients of them value them very highly. But it is because we regard the system as a farce, that we are amazed to find a writer so accomplished and acute as Mr. Mathew Arnold deploring that there is no society in

England which exactly corresponds to the Institute of France. He contends that the influence of Academies is very beneficial, and rests his case on the admitted fact that Frenchmen, on the whole, write much better than Englishmen. In this country we have had practical experience of what an Academy can do in the way of training artists and fostering high art. Our Royal Academy is nearly a century old. It was founded with the object of proving a nurse to struggling and meritorious artists: it has proved to such men an envious and malignant step-mother. Whenever an artist has attained to a distinguished position in spite of the Academy, he is elected a member of the Academy; so long as an artist is original and independent, he is frowned upon by the majority of its mem-The English artists who stand highest in the estimation of foreign critics are not painters in oil, but painters in water-colour. That we can boast of a really admirable school of water-colour painters is not attributable either to the influence or to the encouragement of the Royal Academy. On the contrary, had the Academy been powerful enough, there might not be a single great water-colour painter in England at the present day.

An attempt was made about forty years ago to establish a society which should do for literature what it was originally expected the Royal Academy would do for art. The Royal Society of Literature is still in existence; but this is owing chiefly to its insignificance. It began with a high-sounding programme. Its first members were the leading men of the day. It offered prizes, it published transactions; but the prizes attracted no worthy competitors, and the transactions have remained almost unknown. At one time it could boast of the august patronage of George the Fourth, a monarch whose literary accomplishments consisted in being able to sign his name without blundering in the spelling, and of whom an enthusiastic admirer boasted that no one could equal him in forming a capital G. Supposing that the Royal Society of Literature were now endowed with the powers exercised by the Institute of France, is this a consummation which any rational man should desire? Ought we to unite with Mr. Arnold in longing for the establishment of a tribunal which should polish our style and render it at once thoroughly academic and insufferably monotonous? He rightly states that Frenchmen write very gracefully and grammatically; but he hastily assumes that the French Institute deserves credit for their doing so. Whose style has that body formed or polished? Voltaire is the most finished writer to whom France has given birth. What did the French Academy do for him? Why, when he competed for a prize offered for the best poem, the Academy of his day adjudged the prize to a poetaster who had strung together some lines about "The Frozen and the Burning Pole." Of course, as soon as Voltaire had become famous he was elected a member of the body that could see no merit in his poem. There is a more recent example of the manner in which the French Institute rewards the possessor of rare talents. It had to award a prize for the best literary work of the year. The "History of English Literature," by M. Taine, was reported by the

committee as alone worthy of reward. In the eyes of the ecclesiastical members of the Institute that history was tainted with heresy. Hence they voted for the secondrate but orthodox work of a second-rate writer. Their votes turned the scale, and the second-rate book was declared to merit the prize. Herein it is that the influence of academies is pernicious. Works are judged, not according to their merits as works of art or of literature, but as contributions towards supporting a set of individual opinions, or as illustrations of certain conventional practices.

Mr. Arnold quotes, with hearty approval, the following passage from the writings of Sainte-Beuve: "The first consideration for us [Frenchmen] is, not whether we are amused and pleased by a work of art or mind, nor is it whether we are touched by it. What we seek above all to learn is, whether we were right in being amused with it, and in applauding it, and in being moved by it." The inference is, that Frenchmen, instead of forming their own opinions, are obliged to look for instruction either to the "Forty immortals" who compose the Institute, or to the critics who write in the newspapers. To whom are the "Forty" to look? How can they be certain they are right in being "amused and pleased by a work of art or mind?" They must either be guided by rules which others have laid down, or else they must trust to their own impressions. If their decisions are given in accordance with rules, then others may learn and act on the rules also. If they are influenced by personal feelings only, why should not others suffer themselves to be influenced in like manner? But it is a mistake to say that educated Frenchmen care very much for the dictum of the Institute. They have obstinately persisted in regarding Corneille's "Cid" as a masterpiece, notwithstanding that, when it first appeared, the "Forty" pronounced it a miserable failure. Indeed, it is sufficient for the "Forty" to censure a book or ostracize a writer, to cause the book to be read and to render the writer popular.

In truth, both the French Institute and our Royal Academy are bodies which every true lover of art and letters should combine to sweep away. They are relics of an age when Royal approval and Royal patronage were dearer to men than the favour and applause of their fellows; of an age in which men who were lavishly gifted by nature thought it no shame to cringe to a patron, and to supplicate him for money in a manner equivalent to a dog begging for a bone. The time has happily passed away when the reputation of an author or artist can be made or marred by the bestowal or withdrawal of the approbation of a monarch. We shall never again hear of a poet like Racine dying, merely because his sovereign had ceased to smile upon him. We should almost prefer to see the reconstitution of the Star Chamber and the Court of High Commission, than to witness the establishment in England of a body analogous in constitution and influence to the Institute of France. The best that can be said of academies is, that they are utterly useless. Experience has demonstrated that they are as incapable of bringing merit into prominence as they are of honouring merit which is acknowledged. They serve to foster all that is narrow-minded in opinion, and to perpetuate whatever is

antiquated in practice. Members of academies are, as it were, banded together to defend national faults and pander to national prejudices. Wherever academies flourish, there it will be almost impossible to regard anything from a European point of view, or to test anything by a European standard. Being at once powerful to do evil and impotent to do good, they have no claim on our admiration or support. Their professed objects can never be attained; their influence can hardly fail to be mischievous. Therefore, we say, let them be abolished.

#### CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE DRAMA IN OLDEN TIMES.

Notices Illustrative of the Drama and other Popular Amusements, Chiefly in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries, incidentally Illustrating Shakespeare and his Contemporaries, extracted from the Chamberlain's Accounts and other Manuscripts of the Borough of Leicester. With an Introduction and Notes by William Kelly. (London: J. Russell Smith. 1865.)

WE cannot do better than introduce the cause and purpose of this very interesting work in the author's own words:—

In the year 1847 (Mr. Kelly informs us) I undertook as a labour of love, in conjunction with Mr. James Thompson (who was then collecting materials for his valuable "History of Leicester"), to arrange the MSS. in the Borough Muniment Room, which had for very many years been lying untouched in a state of great disorder and neglect. Our offer having been promptly accepted by the Town Council, who—properly appreciating the value of these records of our past history, which, if once allowed to perish, no wealth could replace—unanimously voted the sum of money required for binding them, and our labours then commenced; my colleague undertaking the arrangement of the interesting series of "Hall Papers" (now forming twenty-four folio volumes, beginning with the year 1583), whilst the "Chamberlain's Accounts," which begin with 1467 (now collected in thirty-eight volumes), fell to my lot. These accounts were at the time lying in a confused mass, mixed with other papers in a corner of the Muniment Room, a prey to rats, and saturated with moisture, caused by the overflowings of a water-butt filtrating through the porous stone wall of the building, owing to which the contents of some of the documents were hopelessly effaced, while others were rotting away, and crumbled under the touch.

"Ab uno disce omnes." In these words we have the history of the fate of corporation muniments. Sixty-two volumes rescued by two active gentlemen of Leicester probably represent two-thirds of the records destroyed through the neglect of those whose duty it was to take care of them. "Rats and mice, and such small deer," have in process of time, we verily believe, swallowed half of the social and domestic history of this island, while aldermen and councilmen dined and slept and discharged other grave municipal functions. the singular worth of these Leicester records Mr. Kelly became aware when drying and arranging them for the binders. We know not whether the Municipal Reform Act of 1835 has thoroughly purged the Corporation of Leicester; but this particular good it has done—viz., it displaced the somnolent, and admitted the active into the Common Council Chamber, for "prior to the year 1836, when the Reformed Corporation was elected," all access to the archives was jealously prohibited. Their predecessors, perhaps, thought, if indeed they thought at all about the matter, that rats were good scavengers, and cleared away certain records. of jobs which it were well not to bring to daylight.

The "Notices of Leicester" relate principally to the drama and other popular amusements during the sixteenth, seventeenth, and part of the eighteenth centuries. The "Extracts" and the "Introduction" to them comprise a circle of revolution in

national tastes and entertainments, reaching from the age of miracle plays and moralities to the days when Garrick was beginning to act and Colman to write for the stage. Unluckily, though many companies of players and the rewards given to them, are registered, the titles of the pieces enacted are not mentioned, and so we cannot discover what dramas or what dramatic poets were successively most in vogue with the persons of quality or the groundlings of the town of Leicester. Mr. Kelly strives hard to believe himself, and to persuade his readers, that Shakespeare performed in the Town Hall. There is probability, but no proof of the fact. Shakespeare was a member and shareholder of the company originally the Earl of Leicester's, and afterwards the Queen's and the King's players by patent from Elizabeth and James. That company performed at Leicester, and so Shakespeare may have shared with Burbadge, Wilson, and Tarleton, the Corporation's guerdon. The Countess of Huntingdon, the Earl's sister, had a house in the High-street of Leicester, called "The Lord's Place," and she probably gave the preference to her brother's troop of comedians. That Burbadge visited Leicester there is no reason to doubt, since his name was familiar to mine host of the neighbouring town of Bosworth, the Boniface who showed Bishop Corbet over the field of battle there, and who, in his office of cicerone-

Mistook a player for a king,
And when he should have said King Richard
dyed
And called "a horse—a horse"—he Burbadge

but with the fatality that attaches itself to nearly every fact in Shakespeare's history, we can only admit the likelihood of his performing at Leicester.

ing at Leicester. It is pleasant to trace in these mute and fragmentary records the form and nature of the pastimes which pleased our sires. They furnish some food for our curiosity, but they suggest even more questions than we can answer. Was there ever a "Merrie England" out of songs and ballads, or the odious comparisons of laudatores temporis acti. Are we become graver or wiser men than were our forefathers? Did they set apart certain seasons for mirth, and reserve the remainder of the year for the necessary toils and carking cares of life, while we indiscriminately mix business with pleasures, and are merry when we list, without regard to seasons? One difference between the past and present is dimly apparent in these records. There was more communion of amusement between the grades of social life formerly than now. There was not then an upper ten thousand, who regard the Opera House and Willis's Rooms as alone worthy of encouragement, while they would be affronted if invited by Shakespeare or Handel to a suburban or provincial theatre, or a music hall frequented by artizans. In times when country gentlemen answered to their names, and did not divide the year between London and the country, fairs were attended, without an idea of its being an act of condescension, "by the worshipful Mr. Justice Freeman, the grave Mr. Justice Tonson, the good Lady Jones, and the two virtuous ladies her daughters, nay, by the great Sir Thomas Trueby, Knight and Baronet, and young master the esquire, one day to be Lord of the Manor "-

For yesterday, you know, the Fair Was holden at the town, The father left his good arm-chair, And rode his hunter down.

An hour had past, and sitting straight Within the low-wheeled chaise, The mother trundled to the gate, Behind the dappled grays.

Increased refinement and civilization have given us large equivalents for these ruder and rustical pleasures, but they have, perhaps unavoidably, widened the space between the social ranks. The gain is great; yet the loss is not inconsiderable.

In 1467, the date of the earliest of the extracts from the Chamberlain's Accounts

and the Hall Papers, Edward IV. was on the throne and Henry VI. was in the Tower. We do not know whether Leicester rejoiced or mourned for one or the other, but we find the following remarkable entries, proving that whether the White or the Red Rose was in the ascendant, the good people of the town held on the even tenor of their way. The Mayor commandeth, on the King's behalfe, "That no bocher kylle no bull to selle withinne this Towne but yf hit be bayted before, in payne of forfetur ther off." Also that it shall be lawful for the Mayor, due evidence on oath previously being obtained, "for to ponyssh" all manner of scolds, man or woman-i.e., on a cuckstool a fore there dore, as long as hym lyketh, and thanne so to be carried forth to the iiij zates of the Town." Here is provision for the peace of the borough, and for the supply of the market, made in Common Hall.

The first mention of theatrical entertainments is in the same reign, in the year 1478. The play was the Passion; the performers of it were probably ecclesiastics, for the professional actor was of later date. Out-of-door pageants were more in vogue than dramatic representations in the fifteenth century, and the Riding the George, England's patron saint, was "the grandest solemnity of the town." Saint George's-day, the 23rd of April, was a high day at Stratford many generations before the birth of Shakespeare, if indeed he were born on that day. The gorgeous ceremonies attending on such exhibitions as the Riding of the George were among the many nurses of the English drama. The grandest representations of this ancient and, in its origin, obscure legend were at the royal residences, Westminster and Windsor, but it was popular in all provincial towns that could afford the necessary expense of the performers and the properties. The dressing of the dragon cost four shillings—no inconsiderable sum in those days. In some years the Corporation of Leicester had not funds for this solemnity, and in 1531 there seems to have been some competition for the character of the saint, Master Christopher Clughtt, for divers considerations, being not allowed to represent him. The festival of Robin Hood can scarcely have been less costly, at least if the people of Leicester performed that sylvan spectacle in its full dimensions. The story, originally very simple and having very few dramatis personæ, had, like a snowball, rolled itself in process of time into a considerable mass. No less than eight masqueraders, with from two to ten morris-dancers, or in lieu of them Robin Hoods men in coats, hoods, and hose of green-"Kendal green"-represented the latest and most complete form of this Maygame. John of Gaunt, King of Castile, brought the morris (morriscoe) dance from Spain. Robin Hood and Little John were indigenous characters. Maid Marian, Queen of the May, sprang either from the Floralia of Rome, or from the Celtic Beltan; so that the entire spectacle was a compound of Heathen elements, and Friar Tuck was the only Christian ingredient among them.

The town waits were among the permanent charges on the Corporation. Like the tailors, butchers, shoemakers, and other crafts, they were united in a company, and were governed by their own laws. The first mention of them in the Chamberlain's Accounts of Leicester is in the year 1524, when 16s. was paid to them for "liveries," and entries respecting them recur almost annually down to the time of the siege of Leicester in 1645. Then came troublous times, and the waits disappear until after the Restoration. The Puritans liked not the devil's music, and were even scandalized by the use of pitchpipes in the churches they had turned into conventicles, or in the Ebenezers they dignified with the name of churches.

To be a member of the company of the town waits was no sinecure either at Leicester or other places in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In addition to their ordinary nocturnal services, they were expected to play in the town every morning and evening through-

out the year; to attend the Mayor on all state occasions, specially at his feasts, when they occupied the Minstrels' Gallery at the lower end of the Guildhall. They were in request at fairs and weddings, and seemingly wherever people congregated to eat, drink, and be merry. Falstaff carried in his pocket sugarcandy to make him long-winded. There is no allowance for sweetmeats to the waits in the Hall Papers or the Chamberlain's Accounts, yet we think such perennial puffing and blowing must have made some such refreshment necessary. Mr. Kelly shows in his extracts that these musicians, like performers of higher pretensions, did not always live harmoniously with one another; and his story of the quarrels of Ridgley and Poynor differs little if at all from the strife and jealousy of primos and primas, within the memory of some yet living.

Leicester enjoyed its full share of what are sometimes called "the manly amusements of Englishmen." To bull-baiting we have already alluded. Bear-baiting and payment to bear-wards often occur. It is well known that the regular drama and the bears were for a considerable portion of the seventeenth century regarded with nearly equal favour both by the Court and the people. The Earl of Leicester, when he entertained his royal mistress at Kenilworth, provided for her pleasures players, dancers, minstrels, fireworks, spectacles by land and by water, and thirteen bears baited by bandogs. Had her progress been at Shrovetide, doubtless the poultry yet alive in the basse-cour would have had reason to envy the lot of their relatives, who were merely slaughtered for the table. Our ancestors had not in those centuries arrived at the great mystery of the prize-fight, neither does Leicester seem to have affected wrestling or cudgel-playing. Charles the Wrestler, in "As you Like it," and Touchstone's remark on "broken bones being thought good sport for ladies," may warrant the supposition that Stratford favoured the belt and ring. As we come down to post-Restoration times, horse-racing is frequently mentioned, and hunting is patronized by the Corporation. Eleven shillings were paid to the huntsmen on Easter Monday, 1678.

Nor were the learned professions without fee or reward. In 1673, widow Ryvett was paid for ale fetcht to the Gainsborough (Arms), when the mountebank doctor was there, by Mr. Mayor's order, two shillings and sixpence. The clergy were liberally entreated. In the Chamberlain's Accounts for 1622 there are no less than thirty entries of presents of wine to different preachers—a gallon being no unusual quantity to be given to one of the reverend gentlemen. The King's jester, the representative of the light literature of the day, seems at one time to have received an annual fee from the Mayor and aldermen. We find, however, no entry of guerdon or remuneration to lawyers. They, it was doubtless thought, were better able than mountebanks, divines, and jesters to cater for themselves.

We could easily, and we would gladly did space permit, lay before our readers other samples of this very instructive and suggestive volume. History is never more usefully employed than in descending from wars and treaties, which, being interpreted, are often synonymous terms with violence and fraud. to the domestic lives, occupations, and pleasures of a people. It is by such books as Mr. Kelly's that we are enabled to see, with different degrees of vision, the secret leaven of the masses, the wheels within wheels of government, the units that make up the sum of a nation. In his pages, and especially in his extracts, we discern the tardy and interrupted, yet the no less sure growth of civilization in England. The Herods, Pilates, Caiaphases, and devils of the miracle-plays give place to the chivalrous or romantic characters of St. George and Robin Hood; in their turn these yield to the men and women of the drama, rough, misshapen, and even grotesqueat first in the hands of Kyd, Marlowe, Peele, and Greene yet rapidly refined and har-

monized by Shakespeare, his imitators and successors. We can mark, while surveying the valley of dry bones, how the solemn and superb ceremonial of the Romish Church was invaded or undermined by the reforms of Henry, Edward, and Elizabeth; the progress of Puritanism, the reaction of Laud, the stern visage of the time when Harrison stood in the pulpit and the younger Vane dreamed of a millennium in Parliament, the saturnalia that followed the overthrow of the kingdom of the saints, the sober indifference which marked the reigns of William and Anne. All these mutations are as it were written in cypher in these "Notices of Leicester."

We will not close this volume without extracting from it a very instructive note on a much-vexed passage in the Second Part of Henry VI.

We find in Shakespeare's Henry VI., the following dialogue between Jack Cade and the Clerk of Chatham :-

Cade. Come hither, Sirrah, I must examine thee. What is thy name?

Clerk. Emmanuel.

Dick. They use to write it on the top of letters; 'twill go hard with you.

In an article on the character of Jack Cade in the Papers of the Shakespeare Society, the writer-in reference to the clerk's name, "Emmanuel," and Dick's comment thereupon, that "they use to write it on the top of letters"-observes, "the commentators appear to me to have taken unnecessary pains to explain this passage. Is it not merely a play upon the word manual, or sign manual, to this day written at the top of king's or queen's letters?" Now, at the top of the extracts from the town accounts for 1578 and 1594, we find the name Emmanuel actually written, as well as on many others of the rolls, and also at the top of many letters of the period, to be found amongst the Hall Papers. Sometimes the name "Jesus" is written in lieu of "Emmanuel." Our local records thus afford positive proof that Shakespeare was in this, as in many other instances, plainly referring to a well-known usage at the period when he wrote, but which has since become obsolete and forgotten. So "Last Wills and Testaments" used, and not very long ago, to commence with the sacred name.

Again, in 1574 there is the following entry:-

Itm geven to the Hare-fynders att Wheston Co te (Wheston Court), xijd.

a notice, which Mr. Kelly cites for elucidating the term "hare-finder" "Much ado about Nothing" (Act 1, s. 1), where Benedict says :-

Cupid is a good hare-finder, and Vulcan a rare carpenter.

Mr. Charles Knight, in a note on this passage, gives it up to the limbo of jokes, of which time has obliterated the point. Mr. Kelly's solution of the riddle appears to us probable and satisfactory; and he throws new light on the image by a pertinent citation from Drayton's "Polyolbion."

### ATALANTA IN CALYDON.

Atalanta in Calydon. A Tragedy. By Algernon Charles Swinburne. Moxon.

LIVE years ago Mr. Swinburne published a volume containing two tragedies, called "The Queen Mother," and "Rosamond," which possessed considerable merit, but attracted no great share of public attention. They were by no means free from faults, but they were so rich in imagery and so forcible in expression, that, after reading them, it was easy to believe what the author's friends asserted, that he was a genuine poet, and that at some future period he would make good his claim to the title. They were evidently the work of a very young man, and they required some allowance to be made for them on that account. Now, however, he comes forward with a more matured poem, and we think that few will read it without admitting that the

friendly prediction was correct. In his 'Atalanta in Calydon" Mr. Swinburne has not only fulfilled the promise of his earlier work, but he has given proof of greater power than even his admirers would generally have supposed him to possess. Whether he is to be, as some of his friends declare, the poet of the future, the singer who is to be to the rising generation what Tennyson and Browning are to our own, cannot yet be determined, but undoubtedly he has written one of the most remarkable poems which our times have seen. It bears the stamp of genius, and of a genius which has not run wild. Mr. Swinburne has studied in a good school, and he has learnt the lesson of restraint. The obscurity of thought, the extravagance of imagery, the contortions of language, which marred the effect of his former plays, have almost entirely disappeared, and we find in their place no small share of the simple grandeur of idea and exquisite felicity of expression which characterize the great artists at whose feet Mr. Swinburne has sat. From the Greek drama, which has evidently long been to him an object of reverent love, he has drawn much of his inspiration, but his work is no mere slavish imitation. It is imbued with a thoroughly Greek feeling, and there are no signs of that feeling being artificial. Mr. Swinburne has lived with the great Athenian dramatists till his tone of thought has somewhat assimilated to theirs, but he has learnt rather to sympathize with them as a contemporary artist, than to copy them as a modern student.

There is little incident in the story, which is that of Meleager's death, indirectly brought about by the hand of his mother Althea. In the early part of the drama she tells the chorus of maidens how the Fates had warned her that her son's life depended on the preservation of a brand which she had rescued from the burning, and had jealously guarded ever since. Towards the end, in her wrath at hearing that her brothers had been slain by Meleager, whose love for Atalanta had brought him into conflict with them, she flings the brand into the fire, and, as it burns away, with it wanes Meleager's strength, and he dies before the day is done. Atalanta does not figure very prominently on the scene, but her presence brings about the catastrophe. She had come to assist in the hunting of the boar which Artemis had sent to ravage the land of Calydon, and her hand is influential in bringing about its death. The description of the hunt, as given to Althea by a messenger, forms one of the noblest passages in the poem, full of force, and animation, and colour. The preparation for the chase gives rise to a fine scene, in which Meleager points out to his mother the various chieftains who have assembled at his father's palace in order to assist him in ridding his kingdom of its monstrous pest. But the chief interest of the drama lies in its closing scenes, after Althæa has received the news of her brothers' death. Her maidens strive in vain to soften her heart towards her son. Her wrath will not be appeased, and she cries

What life shall this be with my son, to know What hath been and desire what will not be, Look for dead eyes and listen for dead lips, And kill mine own heart with remembering them, And with those eyes that see their slayer alive Weep, and wring hands that clasp him by the

How shall I bear my dreams of them, to hear False voices, feel the kisses of false mouths And footless sound of perished feet, and then Wake and hear only it may be their own hounds Whine masterless in miserable sleep, And see their boar-spears and their beds and

seats And all the gear and housings of their lives And not the men?

And very grand is her sorrow afterwards. when the deed is done, and she knows that her son's hours are numbered, and that it is her hand which is fast bringing him to a premature grave :-

Yet, O child, Son, first-born, fairest-O sweet mouth, sweet

That drew my life out through my suckling breast,

That shone and clove mine heart through—O soft knees
Clinging, O tender treadings of soft feet,

Clinging, O tender treadings of soft feet, Cheeks warm with little kissings—O child, child, What have we made each other? Lo, I felt Thy weight cleave to me, a burden of beauty, O son,

Thy cradled brows and loveliest loving lips,
The floral hair, the little lightening eyes,
And all thy goodly glory; with mine hands
Delicately I fed thee, with my tongue
Tenderly spake, saying, Verily in God's time,
For all the little likeness of thy limbs,
Son, I shall make thee a kingly man to fight,
A lordly leader; and hear before I die,
"She bore the goodliest sword of all the world."
Oh! oh! For all my life turns round on me;
I am severed from myself, my name is gone,
My name that was a healing, it is changed,
My name is a consuming. From this time,
Though mine eyes reach to the end of all these
things,

My lips shall not unfasten till I die.

There is real pathos also in the last scene of all, in which Meleager bids the world farewell; but we must hurry over much that is beautiful in order to speak of the real charm of the poem, the choruses with which it is liberally interspersed.

They are so good, that it is difficult to praise them enough. Were our space unlimited, we would transfer them without abridgment to our columns; as it is not, we can only give a few extracts; but we may fairly assume that every one who cares for poetry of a truly high order will make himself familiar with Mr. Swinburne's drama. The first chorus is an ode to Spring, something in Shelley's manner, and well worthy of him, from the first stanza:—

When the hounds of spring are on winter traces, The mother of months in meadow or plain Fills the shadows and windy places

With lisp of leaves and ripple of rain;
And the brown bright nightingale amorous
Is half assuaged for Itylus,
For the Thracian ships and the foreign faces,
The tongueless vigil and all the pain.

To the last:

The ivy falls with the Bacchanal's hair
Over her eyebrows hiding her eyes;
The wild vine slipping down leaves bare
Her bright breast shortening into sighs;
The wild vine slips with the weight of its leaves,
But the buried ivy catches and cleaves
To the limbs that glitter, the feet that scare
The wolf that follows, the fawn that flies.

Then comes a sadder song, after Althea has related her strange dream at Meleager's birth, and in it they tell how the gods framed man in a mocking spirit, giving him some things that were good, but depriving him of the perfect enjoyment of them:—

They gave him light in his ways,
And love, and a space for delight,
And beauty and length of days,
And night, and sleep in the night.
His speech is a burning fire;
With his lips he travaileth;
In his heart is a blind desire,
In his eyes foreknowledge of death;
He weaves and is clothed with derision;
Sows, and he shall not reap;
His life is a watch or a vision
Between a sleep and a sleep.

Meleager's rejection of his mother's warning about Atalanta is followed by a magnificent complaint against love. Not as the poets sang, they cry, should Aphrodite have been born:—

Thou shouldst not so have been born:
But death should have risen with thee,
Mother, and visible fear,
Grief, and the wringing of hands,
And noise of many that mourn;
The smitten bosom, the knee
Bowed, and in each man's ear
A cry as of perishing lands,
A moan as of people in prison,
A tumult of infinite griefs;
And thunder of storm on the sands,
And wailing of wives on the shore;
And under thee newly arisen
Loud shoals and shipwrecking reefs,

Fierce air and violent light;
Sail rent and sundering oar,
Darkness, and noises of night;
Clashing of streams in the sea,
Wave against wave as a sword,
Clamour of currents, and foam;
Rains making ruin on earth,
Winds that wax ravenous and roam
As wolves in a wolfish horde;
Fruits growing faint in the tree,
And blind things dead in their birth;
Famine, and blighting of corn,
When thy time was come to be born.

The grandest, but most terrible, of their songs is that which occupies the time during which the hunt takes place. In it they compare the sad, brief life of man with the luxurious existence of the gods on high, and boldly bring a railing accusation against the immortals. They wish that the deities, who now sit beside their nectar in indolent carelessness, might for a time be as men, and become familiar with pain and sorrow:—

For now we know not of them; but one saith
The gods are gracious, praising God; and one,
When hast thou seen? or hast thou felt his
breath

Touch, nor consume thine eyelids as the sun, Nor fill thee to the lips with fiery death?

None hath beheld him, none
Seen above other gods and shapes of things,
Swift without feet and flying without wings,
Intolerable, not clad with death or life,
Insatiable, not known of night or day,

The lord of love and loathing and of strife,
Who gives a star and takes a sun away;
Who shapes the soul, and makes her a barren
wife

To the earthly body and grievous growth of clay;

Who turns the large limbs to a little flame
And binds the great sea with a little sand;
Who makes desire, and slays desire with shame;
Who shakes the heaven as ashes in his hand;
Who, seeing the light and shadow for the same,

Who, seeing the light and shadow for the same, Bids day waste night as fire devours a brand, Smites without sword, and scourges without rod; The supreme evil, God.

We have quoted enough to justify our praise of these choruses. Two others occur beside those we have mentioned, and the chorus plays a part in the closing scene, but the earlier songs are the most striking. They are wonderfully animated and vigorous. Their rhythm moves not with the painful jerk of an automaton, but with the elastic step of life; and as we listen to them they seem to set themselves to a strange but grand music, which lingers long on the ear.

We have very few faults to find with the poem. The time allowed for the hunt seems scarcely long enough, unless the chorus are supposed to sing very slowly. Here and there the author's affluence of similes leads him to make rather too abundant use of them, as when Meleager, on the point of death, addresses his mother as—

The source and end, the sower and the scythe, The rain that ripens and the drought that slays,

The sand that swallows and the spring that feeds;

or when the messenger, fraught with terrible news, pauses to give Althea a highly-coloured account of Atalanta's charming appearance when she blushed. For all this, however, Mr. Swinburne could find good precedent in Greek poetry, as also for the snipsnap style of dialogue he has sometimes adopted. On the other hand, Meleager's last words to Atalanta are natural, but not in the antique style, the passage ending—

And now for God's sake kiss me once and twice

And let me go; for the night gathers me, And in the night shall no man gather fruit, being as full of modern feeling as Tennyson's

I shall die to-night;
Stoop down and seem to kiss me ere I die."
A few lines may be found scattered through the work resembling others with which we are already acquainted—such, for instance, as—

We wax old—
All we wax old and wither like a leaf;
but it is singularly free from anything like

borrowing or stealing. Sometimes we are reminded of Shelley in the lyric passages, but it is more the movement of the verse and its wonderful music than anything else which suggest a resemblance. Such expressions as "most dimmest" had better have been discarded, and some passages might have been a little clearer-such, for instance, as the description of the fight between Meleager and the hunters who had attacked Atalanta. The blank verse is at times unmusical, and almost every sentence begins with the beginning of a line, which often produces a monotonous effect. But these are small faults, and we do not wish to dwell upon them. It is a pleasanter duty to congratulate Mr. Swinburne on the work he has accomplished, and to express our hopes that he may realize the expectations to which he has given rise by his "Atalanta in Calydon."

#### THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL.

The Court of Final Appeal; or, the Appellate Jurisdiction of the Crown in Ecclesiastical Cases. By the Rev. Morris J. Fuller, M.A., Incumbent of Prince Town, Dartmoor. Oxford and London: J. H. & J. Parker. 1865.

MR. FULLER'S book may be taken as a sort of manifesto by certain persons forming what is known as the hierarchical party in the Church of England, setting forth the grounds on which they object to the constitution of the present Court of Final Appeal in ecclesiastical causes, the arrange. ment in lieu of it which they would prefer, and the arguments or authorities by which they see fit to justify their objections and proposals. The perusal of a work like this is specially distasteful to the general public to all, in fact, who are not clerically interested in the subject, or who do not belong to that singular product of Anglo-Catholicism, the "faithful laity," as the cant phrase now is, to whom Mr. Fuller has inscribed his lucubrations. Here is an amount of onesidedness, of mystification, only to be met with in ecclesiastical debates; of triumphant arguments turning on undefined and ambiguous terms, common enough in theological controversy; of a delusive endeavour to derive practical rules for the government of living men from ideal conceptions generated by imaginations peculiar to the cloister and the clerical study.

It appears that Mr. Fuller has been brooding upon his subject ever since the decision in the Gorham case, and he lays as the foundation of his treatise a prophecy by Dr. Pusey, uttered fourteen years ago, that the doctrines of "the inspiration of Scripture" and of "the eternity of the punishment of the wicked" might come in course of time before the Privy Council for their opinion; he bewails in how short a time the worst fears of Churchmen have been realized, and sums up his first chapter with a literary elegance which will doubtless be appreciated by the "faithful laity." "It would appear," he says, "to be the peculiar mission of this court to whitewash all the heretics of the Establishment who throw themselves on its pro-tection." The second chapter is devoted to a "History of the Court of Final Appeal from the Earliest Times," in which Sir William Blackstone's authority is disputed concerning the Royal supremacy in matters of ecclesiastical appeal; a phrase in a transitory statute (24th Henry VIII., c. xii.) is insisted on as setting forth the constitutional doctrine on the subject; while the great fundamental statute of the following year is characterized as making the first great encroachment on the spiritualty and becoming the law of the land "by the act of a servile Parliament." Of the composition of the Court of Delegates from time to time some information will be found in a recent article on the present subject in the Law Magazine and Review, which would not have strengthened Mr. Fuller's argument. Moreover, the view which the Privy Council itself at present takes of its own authority, as resting on the above-named fundamental statute, may serve

to enlighten Mr. Fuller as to the prospects of success which lie before the "Association for the Amendment of the Law of Final Appeal," &c. Their lordships, in the course of their judgment on the case of the Bishop of Natal, refer to that Act in these words:—

By the 25th of Henry VIII., cap. 19 (by which the mode of the appeal to the Crown in ecclesiastical causes is directed), it is by the 4th section enacted that "for lack of justice at or in any of the courts of the archbishops of this realm, or in any of the King's dominions, it shall be lawful to the parties grieved to appeal to the King's Majesty, in the Court of Chancery," an enactment which gave rise to the Commission of Delegates, for which this tribunal is now substituted.

The third chapter consists of "Twelve Objections to the Present Court of Appeal." They run up in fact into a claim to an indefeasible divine right in the Episcopate to judge in all matters of doctrine. The "Great Head of the Church" gave the Apostles both "mission" and "jurisdiction;" to "found His Church," and the "whole world for their diocese;" the "Apostolate" died out with the twelve, "the universal episcopate took its place." "By the terms of the Apostolic commission the Church's spiritual pastors and rulers claim an inherent and indefeasible right to teach and maintain the truth" (pp. 80, 81). It is apparently not dreamt of by Mr. Fuller that there may be a very reasonable doubt whether the words of the Commission were really uttered by the Founder himself. Happily for his theory, his knowledge does not compel him to point out that the external evidence which should attach the authorship of any of the Gospels to an eye and ear witness of the Saviour's works and words is really wanting. Especially in quoting and apparently relying on the words (Mark xvi. 16), "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and he that believeth not shall be damned"—so comforting to the episcopate, "the divinely-constituted body which is to be the judge of questions of doctrine submitted to them," and, on the Lucretian principle, so soothing to the feelings of the "faithful laity," but so alien from the whole tone of the Master's teaching—the author must be supposed to be ignorant of the absence of the whole passage (xvi. 9-20) from the Vatican and Sinaitic manuscripts. Hence, however, it follows, according to Mr. Fuller, that a synod is the proper Court of Final Appeal, and that "Churchmen" are entitled to demand such a tribunal as may give satisfaction to all parties, clergy or laity, Church and State. It would be difficult to devise a tribunal which should at once have given satisfaction to Dr. Williams and Mr. Wilson on the one side—to the Bishops of Oxford and Salisbury and Dr. Pusey on

It was easy enough to supply the usual fallacy of a catena from mediæval authorities and from High Church Anglican divines, showing the constant tendency among Episcopalians to set up the Pontificale against the gale. The claim never assumed a more inordinate pretension than it now does with some among ourselves; but it is powerless to alter the basis on which the Church of England rests according to Henry VIII., c. 25, and 1 Elizabeth, c. 1. It is beside the mark to ask whether "other churches" would tolerate such a state of things. "Would the Presbyterians or the Wesleyans?" (p. 108). In fact, they tolerate a state of things not so favourable to themselves. They are liable, when the civil rights or liberties of their ministers are concerned, to have the terms of the contracts into which they have entered interpreted by judges in Queen's Bench or in Chancery, who have in all probability no sort of religious sympathy with either of the parties to the suit. No Englishman, unless he had lost temper and sense under the smart of a decision adverse to his own theological prepossessions or ecclesiastical projects, would expose himself by expressing a doubt whether a chief justice, a chancellor, or a committee of privy councillors, could be trusted to deliver a just judgment-a competent and true interpretation of the written law of any Church, sect, or religious denomination whatever in this kingdom of England. No one who had higher qualifications as a writer than the mere capacity for gratifying the greedy polemical rage of the readers of party religious newspapers, would speak of a privilege having been "filched from us [the clergy] by an encroaching State by an accident" (p. 110, and again p. 232), or of "a power which can ride roughshod over bishops, synods, and ecclesiastical courts" (p. 60).

The subject of a change in the Final Court of Ecclesiastical Appeal in matters of doctrine was fully discussed, as is well known, in 1850, on occasion of a bill introduced into the House of Lords with that object by the then Bishop of London, Dr. Blomfield. He was one of the episcopal assessors to the Judicial Committee which heard the appeal in the Gorham case, and dissented from their lordships' sentence. The then Archbishop of Canterbury, on the other hand, concurred. In the recent case, the two archbishops dissented, though in different degrees; while the present Bishop of London concurred. Dr. Pusey and his friends were as dissatisfied with the decision in the Gorham case, which declared baptismal regeneration to be an open question in the Church of England, as they now are with the judgment which has made known a like openness in respect of the duration of future punishments, and of the nature and extent of the inspiration of Scripture. A like dissatisfaction has produced a corresponding agitation for an alteration in the court which has given the offence. Mr. Fuller gives, in chapter four, an analysis from Hansard of the debate in the House of Lords on the second reading of the Bishop of London's Bill, when it was thrown out by eighty-four to fifty-In the course of it Bishop Blomfield acknowledged that the episcopal referees, whose opinion he proposed should be taken by the Judicial Committee on matters of doctrine, would not represent the Church. Since that time, a certain resuscitation of the Convocation has taken place, thanks to the connivance or the laissez faire of the Government, and that which was in recent recollection a shadowy tradition of the past has been allowed to become a formality or farce of the present. But Parliament, we apprehend, would be still less inclined to constitute a reference of doctrinal questions to the Synods or Convocations of Canterbury and York for the guidance of the Judicial Committee, than it was to accept Bishop Blomfield's proposal of a reference to a number of bishops. The speech of Bishop Blomfield is amply given by Mr. Fuller; those of the Marquis of Lansdowne, Lord Harrowby, and Lord Campbell against the bill, will be better consulted in Hansard. Lord Campbell put the defence of the committee on its right ground, when he said, "that it was merely a Court of Construction; its duty was to explain the meaning of legal documents. He had no hesitation in saying that it was better calculated to explain the meaning of the Articles and Liturgies of the Church than a court formed from the bench of the right reverend prelates" (p. 139).

There are three more chapters, entitled, "Of the Royal Supremacy," "Present Collision between the Crown and the Church," "Remedies which have been Suggested"—of which the contents will be sufficiently understood without further explication. Then follows an Appendix, containing, among other papers, a letter from the present Attorney-General, addressed to a local newspaper some fourteen years ago, which cuts away in a singularly effective manner the whole ground from beneath the feet of the clerical agitators:—

I consider the Sovereign in this respect, as in all points relating to her spiritual capacity, only as the head of the State; and the only general distinction between the authority of the State thus represented by the Sovereign over the Established Church, and that which it exercises over voluntary churches or religious communi-

ties, consists in this: That the laws and institutions of the Established Church, concerning both spiritual and temporal matters, are adopted into and enforced by the public law of the land; while those of voluntary churches or religious communities stand merely upon the footing of private agreements. It would be contrary to sound principles of civil government that anything should be made part of the public law of the land, or that the executive power of the State should be called into action by the decree of any court, except under the authority of the Sovereign. The Church, therefore, by accepting the benefits of a legal establishment, and looking to the State for executive sanctions, necessarily brings all the subsequent acts of her own ecclesiastical legislation and judicature within the scope of the general temporal supremacy of the Crown, and the mode of exercising that supremacy, and the restraints under which it is to be exercised, in these as well as in other matters, are ascertained and regulated by the temporal law. (Pp. 252.)

The view here advanced is that the supremacy, whether we call it of the king or queen, or of the State, is a supremacy over all ecclesiastical as well as civil persons and causes necessary and essential to the absolute sovereignty of the State itself, and that as such it is a temporal supremacy, even when it takes cognizance of spiritual things. In reference to the Gorham decision, Sir Roundell Palmer did not consider the limit of that temporal sovereignty "transgressed by the cognizance recently taken of an ecclesiastical cause involving a question of doctrine, before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council," (p. 254). And, while reserving his opinion as to the possibility of a betterconstituted Court of Ultimate Appeal, he saw "no difference in principle between the appeal to the Judicial Committee now given by statute, and the old form of appeal in ecclesiastical cases to the Crown in Chancery, under which every matter in question, whether doctrinal or otherwise, was decided by a commission of delegates, selected upon each particular occasion by the Lord Chancellor." (P. 254.)

No legal or constitutional authority of any eminence, either on the occasion of the Gorham agitation or of the present, has recommended any important alteration in the existing Court of Ecclesiastical Appeal. It might possibly be an advantage for the Judicial Committee for Ecclesiastical purposes to be nominated of permanent members. Not that we conceive any additional security would thereby be obtained for fairness of decision, but because it would take away all occasion of imputations alike dishonouring, though in different ways, to the authors and the objects of them, of particular committees having been appointed by the Government of the day with intentions inimical to the Church. But all persons not misled by a sectarian madness must perceive that the constitution of the court cannot be very different from that which it is at present, as long as the Church of England remains established.

Si vis effugere istine, Macra cavum repetes arctum quem macra subisti.

The Church of England cannot be allowed to play fast and loose; it cannot be a national institution at one time and a divinely-constituted organization at another; it cannot enjoy lordships and glebes, immunities and "commodities," as a creature of law, and escape the provisions of law when they are found irksome to a prevalent party within it, who then affect to treat their privileges with supreme indifference, as the "temporal accidents of spiritual things." The English public are amiably inclined, for the sake of the general advantages which they consider to attend an Established Church, from their unwillingness to disturb existing institutions, and from attachment to names which recall to them their ancient history, to take little notice of individual clerical eccentricities; they connive not unkindly at the pretensions of a minor aristocracy, allow with a grim smile their Protestant pulpits to be invaded by the sacerdotal surplice, and suffer curates and coadjutor ladies to expatiate in floral embellishments rather appropriate to Buddhist fanes than to

Christian churches. Bishops they look upon as the colonels of the clerical regiments. But if the bishops should seriously set themselves up as an order absolutely necessary to the constitution of a true Christian Church, as the sole divinely-appointed channels of sacerdotal and sacramental grace, as supernaturally authorized and supernaturally enabled to declare religious truth, and to define the subjects, theological and moral, civil and political, historical, philosophical, and scientific, on which manifestoes and pastorals must be accepted without appeal-if their leading members, their zealous clerical partizans, and their "faithful laity," should undertake to gag the more free-spoken clergy, or to prompt the judges before whom they cause them to be tried; to browbeat privy councillors, and to confound judgment with legislation; to interpret the laws of the Church actual according to the assumed sense of their own Church ideal; to employ the secular arm to suppress opinions they dislike, but to excommunicate it when it will not serve their turn; to invoke the royal prerogative under which their tribunals are constituted, in order to punish when they think they can punish, but to rebel against it when it has become a shield for the oppressed—they will do well to remember, before adventuring too far on that perilous road, that two great ecclesiastical experi-ments remain to be tried in England—the ene, of an Established Church without bishops; the other, of no Established Church at all.

#### LIFE IN SWITZERLAND.

Village Life in Switzerland. By Sophia Duberly Delmard. (Longman & Co.)

IT is no disparagement of this little volume to class it with the tribe of books which are 'written with no view to publication.' It has many of the best qualities of a very lively private journal, and we like it none the worse because it is not presented to us in that form. There is always something dubious in apologies of the above nature, and we are more disposed to put trust in an author who addresses himself to the public directly and without reserve, than in one who offers to sell us a peep at his private correspondence. It is in the former position that Mrs. Delmard places herself with regard to her present work, and we are the less inelined on that account to criticize certain defects of taste and crudities of style in her writing which it would not be difficult to expose. Neither will we quarrel with the authoress if she has not strictly fulfilled her prefatory promises. She has, at any rate, made a readable and pleasant little book by simple means, and after a manner natural to herself. She has merely taken pen and paper, and set down her impressions of the limited world in which it has been her lot to reside for the last three years, without being at the pains of much polish, and with little care how much of the personal gossip of a Swiss watering-place it was proper to retail for English reading. Had she attempted either more or less, the chances are that she would have produced a less acceptable book. The information she gives us of Swiss peasant life is neither very copious nor very new, and would not by itself have furnished material for even so small a volume as the present. Nor can we help thinking that the authoress might have o'erleap'd herself had she ventured on a more lofty effort at book-making with her present subject. As it is, the main charm for us of Mrs. Delmard's writing is in the vividness with which it seems to reflect. the writer's own character. This 'Village Life in Switzerland' is not so much that of the peasants referred to in the preface, who live in 'hamlets scattered among the Alps,' and 'see and hear but little of the world without their mountains,' as it is that of a thoroughly English type of a lively, hearty, bustling, chatty, Lancashire lady of the old school. This picture of herself would not seem so lifelike were it not for the slight imperfections in grammar, the occasional vulgarisms of expression, the womanly positiveness and love of italics and inverted commas, and little harmless notions of being funny, which make, as it were, the seasoning to her composition.

composition. Mrs. D. (to use a form of transparent symbolism to which, as an authoress, she appears to attach some notion of propriety)

—Mrs. D. carries with her into Switzerland a homely and practical good sense, together with the pudding-making and other cognate powers which proverbially appertain unto good wives. These enable her to dispense almost entirely with Swiss servants, whom she has found to be idle, dirty, and dishonest, and to make something like an English home for her artist-husband and their children. The tone of enjoyment which runs through the book, and the innocent pleasures it describes—such as grape-picking, cray-fishing, picnicking, sledging, and trout-spearing, not to mention the simpler diversions of rolling stones down a hill-side and telling stories round a bowl of punch—are indicative of a happy life, which it is pleasant to read about. But it is the life of an English family, not that of a Swiss peasant. Nor, indeed, is the 'secluded Swiss village,' which Mrs. D. professes to describe, so poor a hamlet as might have been expected. It has 2,000 inhabitants, a railway station of its own, a market place, tree of liberty, and hotel de ville; a syndic, doctor, notary, and other dignitaries; some twenty or thirty shops, including those of an apothecary, a modiste (prolific in crinolines), and a confectioner; not to mention an ironmonger's, with panes of glass a foot square in his windows, and an attractive display of moderator lamps, Sheffield ware, and cutlery. The village, in short, is that of Bex, in the Canton de Vaud, and the much-frequented district between Villeneuve and Martigny. There is, at least, one hotel of some pretension, where tourists of all nations spend idle months, and whence young English ladies and gentlemen set forth in elegant attire to make promenades, or picnic on the mountains. There, too, are counts and countesses; and not long ago a royal prince turned up there suddenly, and, after leading the society for a season, decamped without paying his hotel bill, and

would lead us to infer.

It is, in fact, but a small, and that by no means the most agreeable, portion of the volume which treats of peasant life in Switzerland. The district in which Bex is situated adjoins the Canton de Valais, where goîtres and crétinism abound, and the inhabitants partake of the physical and mental deformities for which their neighbours are so celebrated. Of the former malady, Mrs. Delmard says:—

leaving behind him a bevy of fair creditors to bewail his loss. With such neighbours and

society, it will be seen that our authoress's

life has not been one of such complete seclu-

sion as the title of the book and its preface

In all Bex I do not know a female, young or old, that can be said to be entirely without it; if they have not the huge goitre hanging to the waist, they have the lumpy, swollen neck; and though the dress of the men renders it less observable in them, it is rare to find one with a throat the size that nature gave him. Nor is the disease confined to man alone; animals frequently suffer from it; and from my own experience I can speak of two cases: one, our Spitz, that we had brought from Germany, had not been here above three months when she had a goitre larger than her head, that was cured in a few weeks by rubbing with iodine ointment, and applying bandages wetted with alchohol camphire; the other, a St. Bernard dog, was similarly attacked, and also recovered.

'Little children,' she tells us, 'talk of "getting a goître" as of a thing inevitable, and as little to be dreaded as cutting their teeth,' and, 'if not considered in the light of an ornament, it is certainly not looked upon as a defect.' With regard to crétinism, she says:—

A doctor, who has lived all his life in these parts, told me that, if the *gottre* appeared in three successive generations in the same family, the fourth was invariably a crétin; and, if this be true, it would be a curious matter of research for statistical heads to discover how many ages must elapse before Switzerland will be entirely a nation of crétins.

Of the manners and morals of the people of Vaud, Mrs. Delmard has a very low opinion. According to her experience the men are idle and drunken, the women unchaste, and both irreclaimably filthy. That drunkenness, moreover, is not confined to the villagers, she cites the following anecdote in illustration:—

Not many years ago the Conseil Municipal of this place, consisting of twelve members and the syndic, met to consult on some matters of great importance connected with the well-being of the town; and, as the subject to be brought before the meeting was one of more than ordinary interest, they resolved to inaugurate the occasion by paying a visit to the cellar of one of the members hard by. When there, they commenced drinking wine, using the same glass, a fashion quite comme-il-faut when they go to drink below; and this same glass travelled so fast round the circle and back again, that at last all these dignitaries lay dead drunk on the ground. The next morning, the first to awake from his drunken sleep was the secretary, who left the cellar and went to the hôtel-de-ville, where the Conseil holds its meetings when sober, and, taking the minute-book, wrote down, 'That all the propositions submitted to the meeting the night before were passed unanimously;' and not the least laughable part of the story is, that the matter, whatever it was, that ought to have been laid before that august body was actually

It is not for the want of proper opportunities of recreation, as is said to be the case among the working classes in our own large towns, that Swiss villagers betake themselves to the bottle. They have time enough for their rifle practice on two days out of the seven, whereby they qualify themselves for the annual Tir Cantonal, of one of which fêtes we have here a short and lively account. Then there are village revels at fixed periods during the year, that on New Year's-day being one of the most important. At this time 'the whole population gives itself up to all sorts of frolics and mummery,' the end of which is a procession called the burying of the carnival. This Mrs. Delmard describes as follows:—

There is nothing the Vaudois enjoy so much as holding up to ridicule the priests of a sect from whose domination they have formerly suffered, and whose debasing, degrading, and impoverishing influence is still so frightfully evident in the adjoining Canton du Valais, where the slovenly-cultivated ground, that has not its equal in Switzerland for natural richness and fertility, the dilapidated cottages, and squalid, filthy inhabitants, contrast so powerfully even with the only, comparatively, well-to-do, thriving look pervading the Canton de Vaud. The actors in the farce I saw could not have selected more appropriate weather for the exhibition—a very broad burlesque on a Catholic funeral—it being wet, dark, and gloomy, with a drizzling rain falling; and, in spite of the cold and wet, was witnessed with delight by all the population of Bex and the neighbourhood, who actually left their hot rooms, and crowded after it with every manifestation of delight and approval.

A few feet in advance of the rest of the procession marched the cross-bearer, habited in a white petticoat tied round his neck, and carrying a long pole garnished with sausages; and after him the marguillier, or churchwarden, in a red petticoat, grey blouse, and white nightcap, stuffed at the end, and tied round to form a ball standing upright, an immense pair of wooden spectacles on his nose, and one eye blackened, chanting the responses. Next walked un enfant de chœur, singing and habited in a white shirt, ringing a bell; while the priest, who followed arrayed in a black curtain with a hole to pass his head through, a child's bib under his chin, and a black worsted stocking for a skull-cap, kept turning round while chanting the De profundis. After him walked another chorister, dressed as the first, but carrying a bason instead of a bell, representing the Aspersorium, with which, after dipping it in the pools of dirty water lying in the roads, he sprinkled the body borne on a ladder, a rather uncomfortable bier for a live corpse, with his face hidden under a mask, and two bottles tied together in the form of a cross lying

at his feet. After the body came the relations of the deceased, shamefully drunk; the father and mother, who walked nearest the bier, howling like keeners at an Irish wake; and last of all stalked a tall gaunt figure, arrayed entirely in black, his dark hair hanging down each side of his face, carrying a scythe, to represent Time.

At Midsummer, the villagers of the valley go up the mountain-side to a fête among the higher châlets; and on Ascension Day, when winter garments are first thrown off, their friends above descend to revel in the lower region. We have some account of these fêtes, as well as the Swiss vintage, and the great fair in November, when, as on New Year's-day, a great ball is held at the hôtelde-ville. Mrs. Delmard gives an amusing description of the lessives, or lye-washings, which take place for every family only once in a half-year; at the end of which period it may be imagined how large a quantity of dirty linen must have accumulated. The cleansing operations are conducted by a peculiar and distinctive race of washerwomen, of whom the authoress reports thus: 'They are the greatest gossips, the loudest talkers, the biggest eaters, and sometimes drinkers, of any in the canton. They are all ugly, old, and bent, with lean hands, wizened faces, and thick legs. All wear immense hats, with a knob at the top; and their old petticoats and jackets might have been buried some hundreds of years, and then dug up again. The three or four days that, twice a-year, they are on a visit in your house, your servants have quite enough work in cooking a variety of dishes to suit their fastidious appetites, for they have a diet peculiar to their body; and if you don't oblige them in this respect, you are left in the lurch, and your linen must go unwashed.

It will be rightly inferred from the above extracts that Mrs. Delmard has a lively way of writing, is not deficient in humour, and has considerable power of description. There is a pleasant episode of a summer sojourn at the village of Les Plaus, where a peaceful little colony of artists establish themselves under white umbrellas. Thence they are finally driven by a week of rain, but before departing, they have a snug evening together indoors, when they exchange travellers' tales of becoming horror. These are reproduced by our authoress with a graphic force which well becomes them. One of them may, however, be the work of her husband, who also contributes an account of his ascent of the Dent de Mordes. The book, therefore, is by no means wanting in variety.

#### THE CAWNPORE MASSACRE.

Cawppore. By G. O. Trevelyan. (Macmillan & Co.)

THE tragedies of fiction are not nearly so horrible as the tragedies of real life. What playwright has produced a scene which curdles our blood like the account of the earthquake of Lisbon, the ghastly picture of the Black-hole of Calcutta, or the burning of the ladies in the Cathedral of Santiago? If even these could be paralled, the massacre of Cawppore would still stand forth as a tragedy more sanguinary than was ever depicted by any of our Elizabethan dramatists.

It is presented to us in this work by Mr. Trevelyan with great vividness. From the nephew of Macaulay we naturally expect more than from one whose ancestors are unknown to fame. It is as fortunate a thing to be related to a distinguished author as to be the son of a peer, and Mr. Trevelyan necessarily meets with the like ready welcome from men of letters as Lord Amberley does from the electors of Leeds. But in all such cases the performance must justify the accolade. Mr. Trevelyan's first work, "The Competition Wallah," was one of promise rather than a thoroughly satisfactory book. has now shown that he fully deserved the recommendation he then received to endeavour to produce something which the critics could heartily commend as the work of an original mind and a skilful pen. But the general merits of this book are partially counterbalanced by some minor defects. Vigorous and direct as the style is on the whole, it is at times diffuse and feeble. The narrative is too frequently interrupted by dissertations or discussions of some value in themselves, but which ought not to occur where they do. This fault is one which too often mars the effects of Macaulay's best passages. Even his account of the siege of Londonderry would be much more effective were it very much condensed.

What worthily distinguishes this narrative, is the frankness with which the shortcomings of our countrymen in India are acknowledged. The Sepoys were cruel; but we had been tyrants. The slaughter of our countrymen cannot be palliated, yet neither can the extent of our revenge be wholly excused. For one English person slain in cold blood, at least ten natives were slain in turn. There was wholesale butchery on both sides. we shudder at the cruelties when our countrymen were the victims, we also blush at the cruelties of which our countrymen were the perpetrators. One fact is here put on record, which modifies the force of the accusations brought against us for having invented so horrible a death as that of blowing the rebels from the guns. It appears that we did not begin this method of execution, that the rebels under the Nana first blew from the guns both men and women who had given any assistance to the English.

As the story of the massacre, though pretty well known, may not be remembered with distinctness in these days when heart-rending catastrophes are of every-day occurrence, we shall rapidly sketch its leading points, and bring into prominence the features concerning which Mr. Trevelyan has furnished either new explanations or new information.

In his first chapter, Mr. Trevelyan dwells on the fact that the Sepoys had often mutinied prior to 1857. He does not appear to be aware that it was not for want of sternness in repressing and punishing disaffection that the outbreak took place. In the teeth of a warning like the following, the Sepoys resolved to mutiny. The 47th Bengal Native Infantry refused in 1824 to go to Burmah by sea, or to march overland without receiving double pay. The regiment was surrounded by two European ones, a battery of artillery, and a troop of horse. On the refusal of the Sepoys, when summoned, to march orground their arms, they were mown down with grape-shot. Those who survived were hanged, and the name of the regiment was erased from the Army List. No punishment could be more thorough than this. Is it surprising if, in the days of their power, the Sepoys should have remembered and avenged the fate of their comrades?

According to Mr. Trevelyan, "the real motive of the mutiny was the ambition of the soldiery. Spoilt, flattered, and idle, in the insolence of their presumed strength, that pampered army thought nothing too good for itself, and nothing too formidable." The Sepoys had come to despise their officers; the officers had ceased even to know the faces of their men. From nearly every regiment the majority of the officers were withdrawn for employment on the Staff and in the Civil Service. This employment was eagerly sought after, because it was well remunerated. "And so it came to pass that to be sent back to head-quarters was a 'shame,' regimental duty was a 'bore,' and the Sepoys were 'niggers.'" "In every regiment there was a soubahdar major, or native colonel; and in every company a soubahdar, who answered to a European captain; and a jemmadar, who answered to a European subaltern." Consequently, the absence of all the European officers did not much matter in so far as drill was concerned. Hence, when these officers were slain, the discipline of the regiments was still kept up.

Two causes contributed to the massacre at Cawnpore. The first was the fact of the Nana being ready to head the mutineers; the second, the mistake made by Major-General Wheeler in selecting a place for defence which could not possibly be held, instead of the magazine, which could easily

have withstood all assaults till reinforcements should arrive. The Nana hated the English because the Indian Government refused to pay him the pension to which he was entitled, as the lawful heir of the Peishwa of Poonah. In addition, he had at his elbow an evil genius, in the person of Azimoolah Khan, who, beginning life as a footman, had acted as the Nana's agent in a mission to London, being chosen because of his acquaintance with English and French, who, when in London, was the lion of the season, and to whom were written letters by "more than one titled lady, couched in terms of the most courteous friendship," but who, in spite of the flattery of which he was the recipient, had conceived a violent antipathy towards the English. That Major-General Wheeler made a fatal blunder is not surprising; he was in his seventy-fifth year. When everything was ripe for an outbreak, an incident occurred which in even less excited times would have led to a rising. At the station was an officer who had been cashiered for drunkenness. Either wantonly or ac-cidentally, he fired at a cavalry patrol. The trooper complained, and the officer was tried by court-martial, but was acquitted, "on the ground that he was intoxicated at the time, and that his musket had gone off under a mistake." It then became a proverbial saying among the whole native force, that their muskets might also go off by mistake before long. In passing, we may notice a discrepancy with regard to this officer. Mr. Trevelyan twice records his death, and each time in a different way. At page 139 we read that "he defended the threshold of his host until the last cartridge had been expended, and then walked in among the assailants, and bade them cut his throat; an invitation to which they eagerly responded." At page 176, it is stated that "a single bomb killed and maimed seven married women, who were seated in the ditch; . . . killed, too, the cashiered officer whose drunken freak had something to do to accelerate the outbreak."

After the mutiny had broken out, and the Europeans in Cawnpore to the number of about a thousand had taken refuge in the entrenchment which had been prepared for them, a contest began which, during twenty weary days and nights, never languished. The besiegers were not merely far more numerous than the besieged, but they had ample supplies of the munitions of war. All that the imagination can picture in the shape of horrors was undergone by the besieged. Scarcity of provisions was the least hardship. The thermometer in the shade ranged from 120 to 138 degrees, and water was even scarcer than food. In recounting the sufferings of the defenders, Mr. Trevelyan is obliged to remark: "In such a catalogue the synonyms of death are soon exhausted, and give place to a grim tautology." Within the space of three weeks, two hundred and fifty of the garrison were killed—that is, a fourth of the entire number. At the end of three weeks, the Nana offered what seemed liberal terms to the garrison. They were to march out under arms, carriages were to be provided to transport the women and children, and boats were to be ready at the nearest landing-place to convey them all to Allahabad. The terms were reluctantly accepted and the garrison, at the appointed time, proceeded to embark. No sooner had they entered the boats than the thatched awnings over the boats burst forth in flames, pieces of live charcoal having been purposely placed there, while at the same moment a deadly fire of musketry opened upon their defenceless and terrified occupants. Those who were not shot regained the shore. One boat alone escaped. It was pursued, captured, and all its occupants, excepting a few who saved themselves from capture by leaping into the river and swimming to the shore, were conducted in triumph to Cawnpore. Only four out of those who swam away survived to tell to their countrymen the tale of their sufferings and escape. All the men who were captured were shot. The women were imprisoned in

a house set apart for the purpose. There they remained unmolested till Havelock and his gallant band were cutting their way to Cawnpore. Then the Nana ordered that the women should be slain. Five men, two of them butchers by calling, acted as executioners. Armed with drawn swords, they entered the room in which the women were confined. This was at twilight. the time darkness had closed in, the men came forth, and locked up the house for the night. Then the screams ceased: but the groans lasted till morning." Twenty-one women and children received their deathstrokes during that awful hour. Havelock was approaching, and the Nana had to think of flight. Before his departure he completed his bloody work. One woman had been spared, and set apart from the rest. She was on the eve of being confined when captured. During her imprisonment, she gave birth to a child. "As he [the Nana] stepped on board the barge that was to transport him to the confines of Oude, he bethought him of the young mother who was recovering from the pains of child-birth. . . . For the first time he had practised economy in his enjoyments, and was now well repaid; for his savings had borne high interest. There were two English lives to take, where a fortnight ago there had been but one." The deliverers came too late to save, but not too late to avenge. They entered the ladies' house, and "saw what it were well could the outraged earth have straightway hidden. The inner apartment was ankle-deep in blood. The plaster was scored with sword - cuts; not high up, as where men have fought; but low down, and about the corners, as if a creature had crouched to avoid the blow. Strips of dresses, vainly tied round the handles of the doors, signified the contrivance to which feminine despair had resorted as a means of keeping out the murderers." The people of Cawnpore soon "began to be aware that the English were no longer the same men, if indeed they were men at all." We may condemn the sweeping nature of the retribution inflicted on the natives. We may deplore that our countrymen should have proved themselves as bloodthirsty as the Sepoys. Yet, even when con-demning their conduct, we are conscious that we should have done likewise. The finer feelings, which are the product of high culture, sometimes impel civilized men to commit acts which a savage would perform instinctively. After beholding that chamber of horrors, no man, unless he were more degraded than the vilest savage, could well have known mercy or stayed his hand till all the actors and accomplices in the bloody work had expiated their crimes with their lives.

MYSTIFICATIONS.

Mystifications. By Clementia Stirling Grahame. Edited by John Brown, M.D. (Edmonston

& Douglas.)

"' THOSE who knew the best of Edinburgh I society eight-and-thirty years ago-and when was there ever a better than that best ?-must remember the personations of an old Scottish gentlewoman by Miss Stirling Grahame, one of which, when Lord Jeffrey was victimized, was famous enough to find its way into Blackwood, but in an incorrect form." This is an extract from the preface, in which Dr. John Brown introduces to us the authoress of this volume; a lady who in her time played many parts, yet who was little known beyond the circle of her friends and relations. Miss Grahame could leave a dinner-table, and return so changed in appearance, manner, and voice, that those with whom she had been conversing, nay, even those who knew her most intimately, could not recognize her. Her greatest triumph was achieved over Lord Jeffrey. He was aware of her capacity for personation, and asked her one Saturday night to give him an ex-ample of it. Having ascertained that he was to be at home on the Monday, she called upon him, accompanied by a young lady, who passed as her daughter. Lord, then Mr.

Jeffrey was about to leave his study for the dining-room, when Lady Pitlyal and her daughter were announced. Her ladyship first asked his opinion on a very complicated legal matter; next she requested him to explain a prophecy to her, to which request he characteristically replied, "I believe your ladyship will find me more skilled in the law than the prophets." The prophecy was in verse, the last two lines running thus:-

When woman shrinks not from the ordeal of tryal, There is triumph and fame to the house of Pitlyal;

the gist of the whole referring to the duping of Jeffrey. She asked him a variety of extraordinary questions; among others, where she could procure a good set of false teeth. The result was that the lady obtained a complete triumph over the astute editor of the Edinburgh Review. This is, perhaps, the most interesting of all the examples given in the book. We know something of Jeffrey; but the other Scotch law lords, Newton, Rutherford, and Gillies, are mere names to Nevertheless, the authoress gives her account so graphically as to interest us, in spite of our ignorance of the personages and scenes described. One or two anecdotes are both novel and good. On one occasion Miss Grahame illustrated her part by introducing a story about a Highlander who had picked up a lobster, "and carried it to the minister; and how the minister put on his spectacles to see what kind of a beast it was; and after lang examination, and mony a reference to the Bible, he pronounced it to be either an elephant or a turtle-dove. Mr. Elliot, in his turn, related how a seafaring friend of his, in giving an order for provisioning the ship, said, 'I am resolved to have a cow, for I am very fond of new-laid eggs."

On another occasion the name of the Prince of Monaco was mentioned. Count Flahault, who was present, remarked that he was a friend of his. The company not knowing exactly who the prince was, Miss Grahame, in the character she had assumed, observed, "I'll gi'e ye a Scotch mark it was his father that thought a' the lamps in London had been lighted up in honour of his arrival, and as he drove through the city he exclaimed with delight, 'I've often heard the English was a polite nation, but this is too much."

To the account of her "mystifications" Miss Grahame adds short sketches of servants and hangers-on at her father's house, and of some dogs which seem to have thoroughly deserved the genial notices given of them. John Fraser, the cook, was the counterpart of the inimitable Caleb Balderstone, in "The Bride of Lammermoor." An anecdote related of him is very curious, inasmuch as it parallels one told by Boccaccio, it is highly improbable that John ever read the Italian tale: "One day he sent up a roast goose for dinner, of which he, or some one, had cut a leg before it appeared on the table. John was summoned from the kitchen to tell how the goose came to be deprived of a leg; to which he replied that all the geese of Duntrune had only one leg, and in corroboration of this assertion, he pointed to a whole flock in front of the house, which were happily sitting on one leg, with a sentinel on the watch. The laird opened the window, clapped his hands, and cried 'Whew,' on which they all got up on two legs, and took wing. But John, no way discomfited, quietly told his master, 'If ye had clappit your hands and cried "Whew" to the ane on the table, it would have maist likely ha'e dune the same."

The foregoing extracts exemplify the character of this interesting little book. It is one which does not admit of critical comments. Its value consists less in its style or language than in the picture it gives of a state of society which never existed in this country, and which no longer exists in Scotland. The following extract from one of Sir Walter Scott's journals will show in what light he regarded his clever countrywoman, and will at the same time serve as her portrait :-

March 7 .- Went to my Lord Gillie's to dinner,

and witnessed a singular exhibition of personification. Miss Stirling Grahame, a lady of the family from which Clavers was descended, looks like thirty years old, and has a face of the Scottish cast, with good expression, in point of good sense and good humour. Her conversation, so far as I have had the advantage of hearing it, is shrewd and sensible, but no ways brilliant. She dined with us, went off as to the play, and returned in the character of an old Scottish lady. Her dress and behaviour were admirable, and the conversation unique. I was in the secret; of course, did my best to keep up the ball, but she cut me out of all feather. prosing account she gave of her son, the antiquary, who found an old wig in a slate quarry, was extremely ludicrous; and she puzzled the Professor of Agriculture with a merciless account of the succession of crops in the parks around her old mansion-house. No person to whom the secret was not entrusted had the least guess of an impostor, except one shrewd young lady present, who observed the hand narrowly, and saw it was plumper than the age of the lady seemed to warrant. This lady, and Miss Bell, of Cold-stream, have this gift of personification to a much greater degree than any person I ever saw.

THE EDINBURGH REVIEW.

No less than four out of the ten articles in the present number are on French subjects or French books. M. Taine's "History of English Literature" gives the writer of the first article an opportunity of venting his displeasure on the way in which French writers treat English topics. He seems to regret that M. Taine does not write as if he were an Englishman. Would it be a rational objection to urge against the reviewer that he does not write like a Frenchman? The second article is on "Heraldic Manuals." The third is on our Australian colonies. The writer does not "anticipate that Australia will become an America of the East." He quotes from a chapter of Lord Bury's work, entitled "The Exodus of the Western Nations." He ought to have stated that the work is not yet published. It is hardly fair to refer a reader to a book which is still in the press. The fourth is a very eulogistic article on Madame Roland. We are told that "Madame Roland, if measured by the ordinary standard of an Englishwoman of the present day, must be condemned. According to our modern notions, she was neither gentle, nor pious, nor delicate, nor even virtuous; she would not be considered an amiable, certainly not a loveable woman-perhaps we may say, in some respects, she would scarcely seem a woman at all. But viewed by that strange light of her own times, she stands out in noble and lofty prominence." Mr. Leeky re-ceives, in the fifth article, the praise he so well deserves for the boldness of his opinions and the beauty of his style. It is said of him that "no other Irishman since Burke has devoted his talents with equal success to political philosophy." The other articles treat of "The Church and Mosque of St. Sophia," "Memoirs of Dumont de Bostquet," "Tuscan Sculpture," "Guizot's Meditations on Christianity," and the "Law of Patents." The last is by far the most remarkable, not on account of its merits, but for the opposite reason. The writer advocates the shallow-minded views propounded by Sir William Armstrong, that patents ought to be abolished. We side with Jeremy Bentham and J. S. Mill in thinking that they ought to be retained.

THE QUARTERLY REVIEW.

The present number of the Quarterly resembles that of the Edinburgh in this respect, that both Reviews give great prominence to French topics. In every other respect they are dissimilar. The majority of the articles in the Quarterly are very well written, and are full of valuable information. The opening one, on the "Galleries of the Louvre," is of equal interest to the artist and the historical student. What Francis I., Louis X., and Napoleon I. did for the Louvre, is told with great fulness and force. Not less interest-ing is the next article, on "The Great Printer, Stephens." The story of the earliest and most famous printers cannot fail to interest a wide circle. The author of this article is a master of the subject. He brings together the leading facts, and advances new ones, and enables us to understand what was the real value of the services rendered by the Stephens to lite-The works of Sir Bulwer Lytton, rature. Bart., are treated in the third article with greater tenderness than justice. The reviewer dwells chiefly on those of his novels which were produced after he had adopted the

political opinions which he now holds. He tries to prove that his poems merit a greater share of admiration than they have received. The attempt is more praiseworthy than successful. The next four articles treat respectively of "Education in France," "Our Ships and Guns," "Bishop of London's Fund," and "Clerical Subscription." The eighth article is a summary of "Vambéry's Travels in Turkistan," and is evidently the work of a writer whose knowledge of the countries through which Vambéry travelled is not wholly derived from Vambéry's book. Hence the paper is specially worthy of perusal. In the article on the "Law of Libel," all the recent cases are passed in review. The writer thinks that the law as it stands, "though not entirely free from blemish, is a noble monument of the honesty and wisdom of our Legislature and courts of justice." The concluding article is on "Parliamentary Reform." It would apparently please the writer if a measure were produced for the abolition of reform and the condign punishment of its advocates. Though not expressed in words, yet the implied conclusion of the writer is the maintenance of whatever arrangements are now in force-in other words, "No surrender!"

THE BRITISH QUARTERLY REVIEW. The first paper is on "The Irish Church," which the writer treats historically, statistically, and politically, and does his best to prove the whole thing an anomaly and a disgrace. "Every right-hearted Englishman must feel," says he, "when this subject is touched upon, as a man doomed to shame and silence;" and then follows a con-siderable number of extracts from the speeches and writings of some of the best statesmen of the present and past generation, all more or less confirmatory of the writer's notions. Of the emphatic nature of these the reader will be able to form an estimate from the following extract: "So long as the policy of England towards Ireland shall be such as we see embodied in the Irish Church, so long Ireland must be—we will venture to say, ought to be—discontented, disaffected. Among the means of upholding this would-be spiritual edifice we have to reckon the cost of garrisoning the country with troops, some twenty thousand strong. Displace this alien Church, and we see no reason why Ireland should not be as loyal as Scotland or England." "Homer and his Translators" is painstaking and carefully got up. The early history of the "Doctrine of Atonement" is treated of at considerable length in the next paper, and is succeeded by one on the "Cotton Famine," and "the Lessons" we ought to derive therefrom. "Facts from Savage Life," gathered from such writers as James Greenwood, H. Winwood Reade, and Captain Mayne Reid, are amusingly set forth, and the writer treats us to a rough, but recognisable outline of the biography of a savage. "The French Bible" is an historical sketch of the various translations of the Bible into the French tongue, occasioned by Emmanuel Pêtavel's admirable book on the same subject. This is followed by a very readable paper on "The Economy of Capital and Foreign Trade," based on R. H. Paterson's book of a similar title. A charming book by Mrs. E. Lynn Linton, which was issued lately, with illustrations by her husband, W. J. Linton, has given occasion for the next article, which describes the English Lake district; and the number closes with a severe criticism on the Emperor's "Julius Cæsar." The writer allows that Napoleon has evinced great skill in analysis, has taken a comprehensive grasp of his subject, and has traced with a masterly hand the effect of minor laws; but his theories have been too much for

THE DUBLIN REVIEW.

the reviewer, and he thinks they vitiate what

otherwise would have been a most creditable

performance.

His late eminence Cardinal Wiseman was one of the founders of the Dublin Review, and represented its theological and religious elements. His coadjutors were Mr. Quin and Mr. O'Connell, and the first number appeared in 1836, two or three years after the commencement of the famous Tractarian movement in Oxford. The editor of the journal, therefore, considers that he owes a twofold debt of piety to Dr. Wiseman-first, "he was the chief pastor and spiritual father of the whole flock in England;" and, secondly, he was, as we have stated, connected in a very special manner with the establishing of the Review. In the "Me-morial" with which the present number opens this feeling is gracefully expressed, and the

claims of the late Cardinal on all good Catholics are set forth boldly and lucidly. "Recent Irish Poetry" is the title of the next article, and the writer shows in his exposition cultivated taste and literary discrimination. He attributes great influence to Scott, and thinks the young Ireland poetry grew out of the elements suggested by him. "But in Ireland," says the writer, "there was no formed dialect like the Lowland Scotch, with a settled vocabulary and a concrete form. The language of the peasantry in many parts of the country was the same sort of base English that a foreigner speaks—scanty in its range of words, ill-articulated and aspirated, loose in the use of the liquid letters, formed according to alien idioms, and flavoured with alien expletives." Young Ireland was a literary school as well as a political sect, and it is to Mr. Ferguson, author of "The Lays of the Western Gael" that the writer awards the honour of having first "accomplished the problem of conveying the absolute spirit of Irish poetry into English verse, and that, too, under the most difficult conceivable conditions." Along with him are ranked "Speranza" (Lady Wilde), William Allingham, and Aubrey de Vere. The article throughout is fervidly patrotic, and the writer believes that the ballad poetry of Ireland is fast taking the shape of a solid literature. "Causes and Objects of the American War" are freely discussed in the next paper, and the arguments pro and con are drawn from Professor Cairnes's "Slave Power;" "American Disunion, Constitutional or Unconstitutional," by Charles Edward Rawlins, senior; and "The Confederate Secession," by the Marquis of Lothian. The gist of this article will be gathered from the following sentence: "The war has throughout really turned on the question of slavery; no war could possibly present an issue more momentous; and the one termination most earnestly to be desired is simply such as may most effectually free the American States from that prolific source of sin and misery—the slave system there established." "Theiner's Materials of Irish History" is a capital article based upon that writer's "Veterer Monumenta Hibernorum et Scotorum," and it appears we have much yet to expect from the great collections in the Vatican. As from the article on Theiner we get some insight into the character of Henry VIII., so from that on "Consalvi," in the succeeding paper, we catch some vivid glimpses of Napoleon the Great, and the motives which influenced him in his treatment of the Pope. The more immediately characteristic papers in this journal are those entitled, "Wanted, a Policy for Ireland," and "The Encyclical and Syllabus." Text and translation of the latter is given in the eighth article, and we cannot close our notice of the Dublin Review without calling attention to the spirited and clever manner in which the "Notices of Books" are given.

#### PUBLICATIONS OF THE WEEK.

AIMARD (Gustave). Stoneheart. A Romance. Fscp. 8vo, bds., pp. 322. Ward & Lock. 2s.

Bee Hunters. A Tale of Adventure. New Edition. Fsep. 8vo, bds., pp. 336. Ward & Lock. 2s.

Amberley (Viscount). Few Words on Clerical Subscription in the Church of England. Reprinted, with alterations and additions, from the North British Review. Cheap Edition. 8vo, sd., pp. 32. Simpkin. 3d.

Baynes. English Lysics of Collections

Baynes. English Lyrics; a Collection of English Poetry of the Present Day. Arranged by the Rev. Robert H. Baynes, M.A. Cr. 8vo, pp. xiv.—224. Houlston. 5s.

Stone. Edited by Captain Mayne Reid. New Edition Illustrated. Fscp. 8vo, pp. 392. C. H. Clarke. 3s. 6d.

Beach (Charles). Left to the World. 3 Vols. Cr. 8vo, pp. 946. J. Maxwell. 31s. 6d.

BONNEAU (M.). Exercises on the French Past Participles. Adapted for English Students, by G. A. Neveu. 2nd Edition. Cr. 8vo, cl. 1p. Williams & Norgate. 1s.

BOURNE (John, C. E.). Handbook of the Steam-Engine. Containing all the Rules required for the right construction and management of Engines of every class, with the easy arithmetical solution of those Rules. Constituting a Key to the "Catechism of the Steam-Engine." Illustrated by 67 Woodcuts, and numerous Tables and Examples. Fscp. 8vo, pp. xv.—685. Longman. 9s.

Boyle's Fashionable Court and Country Guide, Corrected for April, 1865. 12mo, bd. Office. 5s.

Connerr (William). Advice to Young Men, and (incidentally) to Young Women, in the Middle and Higher Ranks of Life: in a Series of Letters addressed to a Youth, a Bachelor, a Lover, a Husband, a Father, a Citizen or a Subject. New Edition. Fscp. 8vo, pp. 335. Griffin. 2s. 6d.

Consold (Rev. R., A.M.). Freston Tower: a Tale of the Time of Cardinal Wolsey. New Edition. Illustrated. Fscp. 8vo, Ward & Lock. 3s. 6d.

COCHRANE (A. Baillie, M.D.). Historic Pictures. 2 Vols. Cr. 8vo, pp. vi.—627. Hurst & Blackett. 21s.

Collier (J. F.). Naval Discipline Act, 1864, with Extracts from the Queen's Regulations; forming together the Code of Laws in force respecting the Discipline of the Navy. With Explanatory Notes, a copious Index, and a Tabular Summary of the Punishments which may be inflicted by the Commanding Officer. Crown 8vo, cl. sd., pp. 94. W. H. Allen. 1s. 6d.

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Cost (Lieut.-General the Hon. Sir Edward, D.C.L.). Lives of, the Warriors of the Thirty Years' War. Warriors of the Seventeenth Century. Two Parts. Post 8vo, pp. xiv.—603.

Murray. 16s.

DANTE'S Inferno. Translated in the Metre of the Original. By J. Fordan. Cr. 8vo.—Smith & Elder. 10s. 6d.

Du Boulay (Thomas). Summer of 1865: Founded on the Vernal Equinox. With Observations on the Summers of England, coupled with Remarks on the Locality and Meteorology of Great Britain. 8vo, sd, pp. 16.—Rogerson & Tux-ford. 1s.

EDWARDS (Frederick, jun.). On Letters Patent for Inventions. 8vo, pp. iv.—92. Hardwicke. 5s.

FAIRBAIRN (William, C.E., I.L.D.). Iron, its History, Properties, and Processes of Manufacture. New Edition, Revised and Enlarged. 8vo, pp. xvi.—293. Black. 9s. Grey's Court. Edited by Georgiana Lady Chatterton. 2 Vols. Post 8vo, pp. 663.—Smith & Elder. 21s.

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Howire (William). History of Discovery in Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand, from the Earliest Date to the Present Day. With Maps of the Recent Explorations. 2 Vols. 8vo, pp. xxxiv.—879. Longman. 28s.

Hunter (Sylvester Joseph, B.A.). Elementary View of the Proceedings in a Suit in Equity. With an Appendix of Forms. 3rd Edition. By George Woodford Lawrance, M.A. Post Svo, pp. xv.—299. Butterworths. 9s.

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LAURENCE (John Zachariah, F.R.C.S.). Optical Defects of the Eye, and their Consequences, Asthenopia and Strabismus. 8vo, pp. vii.—112. Hardwicke. 6s.

LAWRENCE (Miss). Stories from the Old and New Testaments. With 24 Illustrations. New Edition. Roy. 18mo, pp. xi.—167. Jarrold. 2s. 6d.

Lord (William C., F.R.P.S.). Gastritis Mucosa; or, the present Epidemic among Horses, commonly called Influenza, Epidemic Catarrh, Distemper: with a Full Account of the Symptoms, Cause, Means of Prevention, and Cure. Fscp. 8vo, cl. sd., pp. 59. Longman. 2s.

MacMillan's Magazine, Edited by David Masson, Vol. XI.
November, 1864—April, 1865. 8vo, pp. 496. Macmillan. 7s. 6d.
Masson (James B.). Contemporary Scottish Art: a Series of
Pen-and-Ink Pictures, drawn from the Exhibition of 1865.
8vo, sd., pp. 56. Nimmo. 1s.

Man's Place and Bread Unique in Nature, and his Pedigree Human not Simian. By a University Professor. Fscp. 8vo, sd., pp. 88. Edmonston. 1s.

Maxwell (Hon. Somerset R.) "Wells of Salvation;" or, Salvation considered in its Several Scriptural Aspects. Fscp. 8vo, pp. xxiv.—195. Hamilton. 3s. 6d.

Memoras Read before the Anthropological Society of London, 1863-4. Vol. I. 8vo. Trübner. 21s.

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#### MISCELLANEA.

PHILOLOGISTS and lovers of old English poetry will be interested to hear of the discovery of a MS., of the 15th century, of the "Speculum Humanæ Salvationis, or Myrrour of Human Salvacyon," translated into English verse. This work furnished the text for one of the most famous block books, and is principally known on that account; but up till the present time, we believe, no English translation of it has been known; had it been in any of our public libraries it could hardly have escaped the researches of Warton and Park. . The MS. in question was lately in the hands of Mr. Sams, of Darlington, and was purchased at the Cottle Sale of MSS., by Mr. Ellis, of King-street. It is written on paper, and is apparently about the date of 1450. The following is a specimen of the language and versification :-

The theves saule wt the saule of Crist
Entrd in the lymbo the same day
And the verray godhede contemplid
Wt othir seints thus the clerkes say
And when the seints see our Lord Cst
That left a fulle joyous cry
Welcome our longe-desired lord
Vouching-sauf us to by
This thing prefigured thre childer
At Babiloygne in the ffonas
When the fyre at the aungels entring
To swete dewe turnyd was
For if the aungels presence to the childer
In the fire refrgery made
Wele more myght our Lord Crist
In helle the seints glade

In Mr. Lilly's "Catalogue of Rare and Curious Books from the Library of the late George Daniel, Esq.," just published, is a copy of Francis Meres's "Palladis Tamia: Wit's Treasury; being the Second Part of Wit's Commonwealth," printed in 1598, a very rare little volume of great interest, as showing the opinion, whilst living, entertained of Shakespeare by his contemporaries. "As the soul of Euphorbus was thought to live in Pythagoras," writes Meres, "so the sweete wittie soule of Ovid lives in mellifluous and honey-tongued Shakespeare, witness his Venus and Adonis, his Lucrece, his sugred Sonnets among his private friends, &c."
Again, "As Plautus and Seneca are accounted
the best for Comedy and Tragedy among the Latines, so Shakespeare among the English is the most excellent in both kinds for the stage."

THE original autograph MS. of Southey's lyrical poems was lately disposed of at the sale of Mr. Joseph Cottle's collections. It It is now in the hands of Mr. Ellis, of Kingstreet, Covent Garden, who, in a catalogue lately published, has taken the opportunity to point out the remarkable variations between this MS. and the text as now printed. A sonnet addressed by the poet to Mary Wollstonecraft may be cited as a specimen :-

ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPH.

The lily cheek, the "purple light of love," The liquid lustre of the melting eye, Mary! of these the Poet sung, for these Did woman triumph! with no angry frown View this degrading conquest. At that age No maid of Arc had snatched from coward man The heaven-blest sword of liberty, thy sex Could boast no female Roland's martyrdom, No Cordé's Angel and avenging arm Had sanctified again the murderer's name, &c.

This is softened down in the ordinary printed version to (l. 4) :-

· turn thou not away Contemptuous from the theme. No maid of Are Had, in those ages, for her country's cause, Wielded the sword of freedom; no Roland Had borne the palm of female fortitude; No Cordé, with self-sacrificing zeal, Had glorified again the avenger's name, &c.

Would it not be an embarrassment to an editor of Southey's poems at some distant period which text should be printed—that of Southey the Republican, or Southey of the Quarterly?

THE rooms of the National Portrait Gallery were densely thronged on Easter Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. During those days 1,917 persons attended, and showed considerable interest in the collection. A printed list of the pictures and busts, with dates of birth and death, as well as the names of the artists, was presented to each visitor. The collection now comprises 193 portraits, of which 61 were presented, and the rest acquired by purchase. Last Easter they numbered 170, thus showing a subsequent increase of 23. The most important among the recent acquisitions are three fine specimens of the late Sir Watson Gordon, P.R.S.A., representing the Marquis of Dalhousie, Thomas de Quincey, and Professor Wilson. They were presented by the artist's brother, Mr. H. E. They were Watson, of Edinburgh, and serve to add to the completeness of a collection which is not only a Portrait Gallery of which the nation may be proud, but is also a gallery of which the historical value can hardly be over-estimated.

THE admirers of Italian literature will learn with regret of the death, at Florence, of Theodosia, the wife of T. A. Trollope. She translated Nicoline's "Arnaldo de Brescia." She wrote an interesting volume on the "Social Aspects of the Italian Revolution," a series of valuable papers on the "Italian Poets," for the Cornhill Magazine, and papers on home topics for All the Year Round. Her letters from Italy have long been among the most lively of the contributions to the columns of a warmen by contributions to the columns of a venerable weekly contemporary. A friend, who knew her well, writes concerning her in these terms: "She wrote and spoke Italian as correctly and as elegantly as her own native English, besides being thoroughly familiar with French, German, and Spanish. She drew and painted well, and was an accomplished musician. Her appreciation of art was singularly delicate and subtle. The interest she felt in the political fortunes of Italy was such that she might fairly be called an Italian in heart."

MR. T. A. TROLLOPE will speedily publish his "History of the Commonwealth of Flo-

WE have to record the death of Mr. Samuel Lucas, the managing proprietor of the Morning Star, on Sunday last, in his fifty-fifth year.

THE Indian papers announce the death of Mr. Edward Parkyns Levinge, one of the justices of the Supreme Court of Bengal, on the 1st of March, in his fortieth year. He was the fourth son of Sir Richard Levinge, and brother of the present baronet, the member for Westmeath. He published a "Justice of the Peace Manual for Ireland," in 1853, and a "Treatise on the Irish Game-laws," in 1857.

THE Journal Général de l'Imprémerie announces the death of Professor H. G. Ollendorff, author of a variety of grammars of modern languages on the system which bears his

M. Louis Perrin, the well known printer of Lyons, died last week in that city.

An Irish member, Sir Colman O'Loghlen, says the Pall Mall Gazette, has planned a surprise for his Scottish fellow senators which proves him to be no mean wag. One of the great questions which now occupy the Edinburgh intellect is, whether a certain botanic garden on the north side of the town shall be opened on Sunday or not. Sir Colman has a motion before the House in favour of its being so opened; and knowing that Scotch parliamentary fixed for the 27th, and that very many Scotch members are engaged for important meetings on the 21st or 22nd, he chooses the 24th for his purpose: "because Scotch members must either be absent or be forced to travel on Sunday." The baronet, it seems, "makes no secret of his joke," but means to punish the Scotch members for their vote on Sunday travelling in Ireland some time ago.

Mr. C. W. Godwin, the well-known Egyptologist, and late editor of the Parthenon, has accepted a Government appointment at Shanghai, for which place he has sailed. Mr. Godwin has long wished for an opportunity of making a lengthened visit to China, as affording means of establishing chronological data to support a new system of chronology which his investigation of Egyptian antiquities has led him to adopt.

WE are glad to welcome Trübner's American and Oriental Literary Record, the work of one of the soundest bibliographers amongst the London publishers. Besides the "American Literary Intelligence," and the "Oriental Literary Intelligence," the first Monthly number furnishes a "List of American Periodicals," with synopsis of contents of the current numbers of each; lists of

"New American Books and Recent Publica-tions," in which the titles are given in full, the number of pages and maps and other illustra-tions mentioned, and short literary notices added; of "Peruvian Literature;" of "Brazilian Literature;" of "English Books published in India and China;" of "Sanskrit Texts, printed at Indian native presses, and of Sanskrit Texts printed in Telugu characters, at Indian native presses." This Literary Record, it will be seen, occupies entirely new and independent ground.

THE Pall-Mall Gazette, smarting under the inhospitable treatment it has recently received at the hands of the French censorship, addresses the Emperor as "Imperial Seizer."

THE Fortnightly Review is about to start under the editorship of Mr. G. H. Lewes, on perfectly independent principles, not laying claim to any definite policy, nor even to coherence of views amongst its writers.

WE have received the following letter from Ireland; perhaps some of our readers can help us to answer the queries contained in it : "Can THE READER explain why it is that English writers on Irish subjects display so much ignorance? If they must write, why do they not make up their subjects? The writers in the *Times* are continually making absurd statements, but their crowning article was that on Irish Churches, which is as good as one of the English Irishmen on the London stage. The Times is the principal transgressor, but some of the other papers also have their English-Irish articles; as, for instance, that which was lately in the Spectator on 'Irish Dogs,' and even the Saturday Review, which ought to know better than to print rubbish, sometimes indulges in an English-Irish article. But it is not confined to the writers for the papers, as you will also find men of note doing the same thing. Look at Sir C. Lyell's 'Elements,' and you will find that he seems to know the geology of every place but Ireland; the same thing in his 'Antiquity of Man,' where you will see he knows scarcely anything about the Crannoges of Ireland. If you look in any of the Magazines, you will find others who do the same thing .-Yours, G. H. K."

The annual dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund will take place, under the presidency of Mr. Charles Dickens, on the 20th of next month. Mr. Benedict will conduct the concert, and Miss Louisa Pyne, Madlle. Enequist, Mad. Sainton-Dolby, Mad. Weiss, and Miss Emily Soldene have promised their valuable aid, which will be supported by Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Weiss, M. W. Harrison, and Mr. G. Perren.

THE remains of an ancient city, supposed to be those of Ponzuelos or Los Cesares, have been discovered in the South of Chili.

"Is the following statement by a popular lecturer a joke," asks "Durotrix," in Notes and Queries, "or has it any true historic foundation?" A curious example of Nolo Episcopari was afforded by the Rev. Dr. John Bull, Canon of Christchurch, who refused the see of Oxford for the reason that he would not give up the venerable signature of John Bull for that of John Oxon—a species of pluration at which his coascience rebelled.

In the Royal Album, chiefly published as a medium for advertisements, but edited by French and German editors for the guidance of their countrymen in London, and printed in English, French and German, in the list of public Societies, the Hunterian Society appears as the "Societé des Chasseurs," and "Jagd-Gesellschaft."

THE sale of the privilege of translation of the "Histoire de Jules César" to the St. Petersburg publisher has led to an intercharge of literary civilities between the Czar and the Emperor. Under the Russian law, authors may reserve to themselves the right of translation only in case of obtaining a testimonial from Government, acknowledging that novel scientific researches of particular value have been embodied in the work. The Czar's certificate acknowledging the Emperor's claims to superior literary merit had therefore to be obtained by the French Ambas-sador before the copyright could be secured, and this testimony (of the St. Petersburgh Academy) as to the great merits of the work is said to have been no less gratifying than acceptable to the Imperial author, whose labours have not been so courteously received in other quarters as he had anticipated.

Amongst the publications of the month, we have to notice more particularly Mr. Tom Taylor's "Life and Times of Sir Joshua Reynolds, with Notices of Some of his Contemporaries," a work begun by the late Mr. Robert Leslie, R.A., in two volumes; Mr. William Chadwick's

"King John of England," an abortive attempt to rehabilitate that monarch, by the aid of original authorities; "Biographies of Eminent Soldiers of the last Four Centuries," by the late Major-General Smith, with a memoir of-the author by Dr. Leonard Schmitz; Mr. G. O. Trevelyan's melancholy "Story of Cawnpore," with illustrations; Mr. Newton's "Travels and Discoveries in the Levant;" Mr. Ross Fitzgerald's "Vist to the Cities and Camps of the Confederate States;" Mr. Murray's beautiful edition of the "New Testament," in two volumes, with woodcut illustrations, and typoyoumes, with woodcut illustrations, and typo-graphy never surpassed; "An Address to the Younger Clergy and Laity," by the Bishop of Argyll; "The Finished Course, Brief Notices of Departed Church Missionaries," with a preface by the Rev. C. F. Childe; "Household Theo-logy, a Handbook of Religious Information, respecting the Holy Bible, the Prayer-Book, the Church, &c.," by the Rev. J. H. Blunt; Mr. Owen Jones's "Grammar of Ornament," containing innumerable examples for illuminators and ornamentors of books or manuscripts; Miss Mary Louisa Boyle's "Woodland Gossip," from the German, with delicate photographs from original drawings by Mr. Leighton and others; "The Second Empire as exhibited in French Literature, Miscellaneous Essays and Criticisms on French Life, History, and Books," by Sir Lascelles Wraxall; "Miscellaneous Essays, chiefly on Social Subjects," by Mr. Edward Miall, with the title of "The Editor off the Line;" a posthumous "Essay on Shakespeare," by Cardinal Wiseman, originally intended to be delivered at the Royal Institution; a reprint from All the Year Round of Mr. Percy Fitzgerald's "Never Forgotten;" "Theo Leigh," by Miss Annie Thomas, three volumes; "Hoods and Masks," by Captain G. de la Poer, three volumes; "Left to the World," by Charles Bruce, three volumes; "The Curate of Sadbrooke," three volumes; "The Heiress of the Blackburnfoot," a tale of rural Scottish life, one volume; "The Lawyer's Purpose," by James Leitch, two volumes; "Our Charlie," by Vere Haldane, one volume; Mr. Neil Baillie's "Digest of Mohummudan Law," with an Introduction and Explanatory Notes; the Rev. Morris J. Fuller's "Court of Final Appeal, or the Appellate Jurisdiction of the Crown in Ecclesiastical Cases;" and a third edition of Mr. Walford's "County Families of the United Kingdom," with large additions.

Dr. Granville is about to publish "The Great London Question of the Day; or, Can Thames Sewage be Converted into Gold?" in two pamphlets, the one historical, and the other practical, in which he will attempt to prove that what the Metropolitan Board of Works has now so successfully achieved is nothing less than a wholesale plagiarism of John Martin's plan, which "The Thames Improvement Company" sought to carry out thirty years ago.

EARL RUSSELL'S essay on the English Government has been translated into French by Ch. Bernard de Rosne, and published by M. Dentu, who has just issued two Julius Cæsar pam-phlets, "Jules César et William Shakespeare: Etude sur les Hommes Providentiels," par M. Edmond Villetard, and "Les Femmes de Jules César, sa Vie Privée, et ses Moeurs," par Benjamin Gastrèau.

M. THIERS is writing his memoirs, and the

first volume is in the press.

Mr. Tegg has just ready a new edition of he Rev. Albert Barnes's "Revival Sermons Thomas A. Kempis' "Imitation of Jesus Christ" (Dean Stanhope's translation); a new edition of "Walker's Rhyming Dictionary," edited by Dr. John Longmuir; "Robin Hood Ballads," edited by John Hickling; "The Boy's Holiday Book," edited by the Rev. E. Fuller; a pocket edition of "Pope's Poetical Works," edited by the Rev. J. Lupton; a new edition of "The Child's Own Verse Book," enlarged and arranged by William Tegg; and "Peter Parley's Tales about Europe, Asia, Africa, America, and Oceania," entirely re-edited by William Tegg, with full-page engravings.

MR. PITMAN will shortly publish "A Hand-

book for the Man of Business;" "Scepticism and Spiritualism," by the author of "Aurelia;" and the first volume of "The Wild Garland, or

Curiosities of Poetry."

MESSRS. VIRTUE BROTHERS announce "The Wedgwoods; being a Life of Josiah Wedgwood, with Notices of his Works and their Productions, Memoirs of the Wedgwood and other Families, and a History of the Early Potteries of Staffordshire," by Llewellynn Jewitt, F.S.A., dedicated to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, and illustrated with portraits, and upwards of one

hundred and fifty finely-executed wood engravings. It has been long in preparation, and the author's reputation in all matters connected with ceramic manufactures gives considerable

importance to the work.

MESSRS. TICKNOR AND FIELD, of Boston, U.S., have published a new and handsomelyprinted edition of the works of "Nathaniel Hawthorne," in 14 vols.; "Poems of the War," by George Boker, a collection of lyrics called forth by the present war; Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe's "House and Home Papers," from the Atlantic Monthly; a new volume by Miss Gail Hamilton, entitled, "A New Atmosphere; "Emily Chester," a clever novelette, which Messrs. Routledge have reprinted in London; and a "Life of Jean Paul Richter," preceded by his autobiography, by Mrs. E. B. Lee. They announce "Skirmishes and Sketches," by Miss Gail Hamilton; and "Life and Letters of the Rev. F. W. Robertson."

In the March number of Hermann Grimm's Ueber Künstler und Kunstwerke, a new journal of the Fine Arts, is a review of Crowe and Cavalcasselle's History of Painting in Italy; and an account, with photograph, of an unpublished bas-relief attributed to Michael Angelo.—The Literasches Centralblatt, No. 16, reviews Ferguson's Teutonic Name-system, in anything but a friendly spirit;—the Grenzboten, No. 15, Mommsen's Römische Geschichte;—the Morgenblatt für gebildete Leser, No. 15, contains Henry Thomas Buckle über fürstliche Künstler und Dichter Protection; and gives the concluding paper on Lorenz Sterne;—the Blätter für literarische Unterhaltung. terhaltung, No, 14, Markham's Berichte über Peru;—the Magazin für Literatur des Auslandes, No. 14, Gervinus's Geschichte des xix ten Jahrhunderts, vol. vii.; and Albert Cohn's Shakespeare in Germany;—No. 15, die Geschichte Julius Cæsar's von Napoleon III.; and das Kriminal-Irrenhaus in England; the Europa, No. 16, Von Peking nach Kiachta; and die Familie des Herzogs von Mornay;—the Gartenlaube, No. 15, an essay upon Angelica Kaufmann, by M. Ring, under the title of Die Malerin der Grazien ; - the Oesterreichische Wochenschrift, the Histoire de Jules César ;-and the Ausland, No. 14, Land und Leute in Dahomey; Darwin über die Befruchtung der Orchideen; California in 1865; Sydney in 1864; and Göppert über die Darwin'sche Transmutationslehre mit Beziehung

auf die fossilen Pflanzen. MESSRS. CREIGHTON AND SCALES, of Auckland, the publishers of the Southern Monthly Magazine, of which we have just received No. 24, for February, announce "Phasmata Visions and Ghost Stories in Verse," by the Rev. John Duffus, author of "Faith," a Poem.

THE third volume of "Louis XVI., Marie

Antoinette, et Madame Elisabeth, Lettres et Documents Inédits, par F. Feuillet de Conches," will be published in June.

On the morning of Jan. 2, 1865, shooting stars were sufficiently numerous to attract the attention, at New Haven, of those who were not aware that unusual numbers were looked for on that morning.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

THE STAGE AND ITS CRITICS.

To the Editor of THE READER. Sir,—It is so rare for men of cultivated minds to take any interest in the English stage as it now exists, that I had singular pleasure in reading the letter of "Histriomastix" in last week's READER. Unfortunately, however, the art of the dramatist and of the actor has sunk to so low an ebb in this country that the principal feeling which his remarks are likely to produce amongst educated readers will be astonishment that an intelligent writer should think the modern stage worthy of serious criticism or comment.

No doubt this feeling would be in some respects a just one; careful and discriminating criticism is hardly called for by the plays or actors of to-day; but, as one of those who, in common with "Histriomastix," regret that the most delightful of all kinds of intellectual recreation should be for the time entirely lost to us, I am emboldened to send you a few observations on the subject so well treated by your correspondent. That the stage no longer affords amusement to the refined and intelligent portion of society can, I think, hardly be doubted (of course, I do not include the Italian Opera). Few Londoners who have passed thirty enter a theatre twice in a year. Indeed, a middle-aged man is generally half ashamed of having been to see a play, feeling much as if he had been eat-

ing sweetmeats or reading fairy tales, or allowing himself any other indulgence of a kind usually supposed to be fit only for children. It is true that an exceptional attraction occasionally draws every one to the theatre; yet few men look upon the stage as capable of affording any but the coarsest and most vulgar amusement. And yet this has not always been so. From the days of Betterton up to a not very remote time, "stage plays" have been the favourite amusement of the leading men in a society quite as critical and fastidious as that which now exists. Addison, Pope, Steele, Johnson, Goldsmith, Burke, Sheridan, Coleridge, Byron, Hazlitt, and Lamb, were hardly men likely to take pleasure in any essentially vapid form of amusement, or to labour for the delectation of the easily-pleased crowd merely, and yet these men were all of them steady playgoers, most of them dramatic authors, and two of them managers, while the society in which they moved took the keenest interest in theatrical matters, and discussed with unfailing zest the merits of the leading actors of the day. Abroad, indeed, the theatre is still frequented by the intellectual portion of society. The impersonations of Rachel, Ristori, Sanson, Got, Emile Devrient, and Dawissen, have been admired and discussed by keen and accomplished critics in France, Italy, and Germany, but what educated Englishman thinks it worth while to devote serious attention to the merits of the leading actor at the Haymarket or Drury Lane?

I believe, then, that I am justified in saying that the stage has in former times contributed largely to the amusement of a highly intellectual society in this country, and that the same is still the case abroad, and I venture to offer you a few remarks on what appear to me the causes why our theatres are now chiefly frequented by small tradesmen, country visitors, and men about

In the first place, a large number of able men, who would in former days have written plays, now write novels, which are easier to write, and bring in a larger pecuniary return. To write a good play is an immensely difficult thing, as difficult a piece of work indeed as a literary man can put his hand to; the pay being wretched, competent writers naturally shrink from the unremunerative labour, when by composing a novel, which gives a great deal less trouble, they can realize a handsome sum. Sometimes, indeed, a fancy for the stage gives us a play from such a man as Sir Bulwer Lytton, but these exceptions rather prove the rule.

Secondly, good actors have become very scarce; it is rare now to see a comedian of even respectable merit. "Histriomastix" has treated this portion of the subject so well, that I cannot hope to add anything to his remarks, but I do not think that any competent and impartial judge would undertake to select from the whole mass of London actors a company equal to that of the theatre at Dresden or of the Gymnase at Paris. I put the troupe of the Théatre Français out of the question, as I do not believe that there is any English actor who is of the calibre required for a leading part in the

Rue Richelieu.

Thirdly, I am disposed to assign much of the degradation of our stage to the utter worthlessness of modern dramatic criticism. dramatists and actors have declined, but there is a great stock of good plays to fall back upon, and some brilliant genius may at any time revive the glories of the stage, as Edmund Kean did at Drury Lane. But it is absolutely impossible for a high standard of art to be maintained for any length of time without the stimulus of keen and appreciative criticism; and, in dramatic matters, the critics have altogether ceased to represent the opinion of educated men. Should you think this letter worthy of insertion, I hope to be able shortly to give you some specimens of the kind of stuff which the leading papers have for some years past been content to offer to the public as serious dramatic criticism. Some extracts from the effusions of those gushing gentlemen, whose only difficulty appears to arise from the paucity of laudatory adjectives in our language, will show with sufficient clearness the manner in which these conscientious writers do their duty to the public. A famous American actor once declared that he could buy any English dramatic critic for a pot of beer. A little Yankee exaggeration must be allowed for. I question whether so many superlatives can be had so cheaply. The actress was nearer to the mark who said that she had made a good deal of money during her career, but that her ward-robe and her journalist came very dear. Indeed it cannot be designed that there deed, it cannot be denied that these gentlemen

are sometimes worth the money. Occasionally, it is almost impossible to avoid being deceived by their simple enthusiasm, their apparently genuine delight. For once we have been more refined and subtle than the French. "They manage these things better in England." The claqueurs of the Porte St. Martin or the Vaudeville are dirty greasy fellows, huddling together on the two front benches of the pit, and deceiving no man, woman, or child in the theatre. Our claqueur is a gentleman in evening dress, lounging in the stalls, very likely a dramatic author himself, and with a great power of expressing fervid admiration on paper. Long practice has made him so perfect a master of the art described by Mr. Puff, that he is occasionally able to deceive even An Old Playgoer.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—It is hardly to be expected that so wehement a writer as "Histriomastix" would deign to listen to any contradiction or even remonstrance on the tempestuous utterance that appeared in your last number; but as very few of the many cultivated readers you have can share his reckless impetuosity of assertion, it may be well to admit some slight attempt to moderate the fury of his attack on the stage and its critics.

With respect to the charge against the lastmentioned persons, he evidently follows the usual mode, and having read some one or two articles in papers known to be venal, he ignores the whole of the rest of the press, daily, weekly, monthly, and quarterly. As regards the actors, the errors of a false system of elocution have been forcibly pointed out from the elder Kean's days through his son's worse sytem, through the Kemble drawl, the Young whine, the Macready gurgle, down to Phelps' mouthing. Yet no one competent to judge of acting would deny that one and all of these actors had great talent, and some of them genius. It will occasionally happen, as probably with "Histriomastix," that the individual neculiarity will be so offensive that it overnowers peculiarity will be so offensive that it overpowers all possibility of judgment. The imagination is crushed, as it were, by the one prevailing manner, and refuses to sympathize with any other quality in the offending artist. It is very long before prejudices of this sort can be conlong before prejudices of this sort can be conquered, and they are always strongest in those least accustomed to them. I, like your correspondent, felt it during the whole career of Mr. Macready, and was at constant war on the point with his ardent admirers, who defended his personal defect on the same principle as the follower of Wilkes, who declared, "Mr. Wilkes does not squint more than a gentleman ought to squint." There are, moreover, certain imperfections which chime in with the prevailing taste, and are un-happily reckoned as merits. This is shown in literature in the sham sentiment of Dodd and Sterne in the last century, and of Byron in this. Thus the pomposity of Quin was the echo of the inflated eloquence of the age. The "nature" of Garrick was the national taste returning to a more colloquial state. The "dignity" of the Kembles, at last degenerating into strut, was a reaction towards elevation of manner. The fierce intensity of Kean met with a response from a busy and earnest age; and the defects of our time are mistakes on the part of half-educated audiences. Nature (by the way a very loose and dangerous term to use in æsthetic matters), amidst all these imperfections, still occasionally asserts itself; and it is the critic's duty, more especially, to point out what is good, and hold it up for imitation. To run a muck is easy; to tread down remorselessly is the work of a beast; to rear up tenderly is the office of a reasonable creature. That Mr. Phelps has occasionally a vicious style of elocution, we all know. He is not a good Macbeth; he can-not play a fine gentleman. But surely his Sir Pertinax Macsycophant is a remarkably clever personation, from the first syllable to the last. His pathos in the dying scene of "Henry the Fourth;" his wonderful senility as Shallow; his real dignity and feeling in the quarrel scene of Brutus, are truthful pieces of acting, and have not a trace of the imperfection which your correspondent holds out as the predominant quality of this actor. But few persons will join in the wish that he should bawl out toasts at a City feast, instead of representing faithfully Bottom the Weaver, Shallow, Henry the Fourth, Othello, Lord Ogleby, and Sir Pertinax. Not that even mere toasting utterance requires so blatant an utterance as Histriomastix seems to desiderate.

As for the preference for foreign acting, that seems to be the case with many persons; and

simply because, being less intimately acquainted with the manners, the solecisms of conduct are not so irritating. The German actors of Shakespeare I have seen were bad transmitters of the stately Kemble school. The French are certainly our superiors in indicating actual manners; but they lack passion and ideality.

It is undoubtedly to be regretted that ladies

and gentlemen will not take the inferior parts on our public stages, and make up a genteeler mob than we at present get; but we fear that such a result is hopeless. Our "stage-scourger" praises our farces, which every one else feels, and most critics say, have degenerated; and you, in your own pages lately, reported truly that, out of four new farces, scarcely one real hearty laugh could be got. This, by the way, brings me back to the wholesale denunciation of the critics. In answer to the charge of constant puffing, it may be pointed out that not long since you had three columns elaborately condemning the mode of interpretation of the most favourite actress of the day; not certainly vehement objurgation, but that incisive and reasoning denunciation which is more tasteful and more effective than that which too closely approaches to abuse.

We all agree that a theatre is wanting where the best actors and actresses could be assembled and could be trained, as they would train each other, into a refined exemplification of their art; and where all the accessories could be artistically supplied. But this could not be a very large theatre; and the populace who now frequent the twenty-one theatres London possesses will always encourage what suits their own capacities; and criticism is as unavailing to the multitude as regards acting, as it is to the wearers of crinolines and mutton-chop whiskers. Indeed, if it be written, the mass will not read it. The readers of the intellectual papers can be numbered by thousands—the frequenters of theatres by millions. That truth should be written is most desirable, however small its circulation. But then truth does not consist in undistinguishing abuse, nor can a judgment be formed of an artist by one work, and that probably a specimen of his defects only. Of course, it is meant for jocularity when it is proposed to be put an end to a national institution, and to substitute amateurs for professional artists. "Histriomastix" seems to know much about the former, and nothing about the latter. If he has discovered any amateurs that any one of the public would voluntarily give sixpence to see solely as actors, I shall be thankful to be introduced to them, for I have never yet met any such, though I have seen puffing criticisms on them, which would almost justify your correspondent's comprehensive condemnation of theatrical criticism.—I am, &c., F. G. T.

COMIC LITERATURE.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Dear Sir,—Apropos of your article on Comic Literature, I once picked up at Marseilles an old French caricature, which I do not remember ever to have seen noticed, dated 1814. A John Bull on all fours, with the head of Louis XVIII., and the subscription: "Un gros cochon, élevé en Angleterre, qui passe pour dix-huit Louis, mais qui ne vaut pas un Napoleon."—Yours obediently,

April 15.

Several correspondents have called our attention to a mistake made by the reviewer of Mr. Martin's translation of "Faust." Our reviewer observed that the translator had substituted apes for cats in the scene in the Witches' Kitchen. Our correspondents remark that the word in the original ought to be translated apes. The words used in the introduction to the scene are "meer-kater" and "meer-katze." literally mean he and she sea-cats, or they may mean monkeys, the latter being the meaning attributed to them by Goethe. At the heading of the several parts of this scene the word kater or kätzin is placed; the former meaning a tom-cat, the latter a she-cat. Our reviewer erred in not considering these words in connexion with the opening passage of the scene before censuring Mr. Martin for having mistranslated them. While we regret this blunder, we are pleased to think that even had the stricture of our reviewer been deserved, it would not have in any way affected his high estimate of the translation. In conclusion, we may add that the words are not free from ambiguity, for where Mr. Martin writes "female-ape" and male-ape," Dr. Auster, one of the ablest of his predecessors as a translator, writes "female cat-ape" and "male cat-ape."

#### SCIENCE.

THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

ON Easter Monday more than twenty-three thousand persons visited the Zoological Gardens. The day was on the whole favourable, and although a few drops of rain fell at intervals, this did not prevent the grass being covered during the afternoon by sitting and lounging groups, all unmindful of possible colds and rheumatism. Eating and drinking were everywhere going on, and occasionally even smoking; for on this holiday the strict rules against burning the fragrant weed were not enforced, and the visitors were very wisely permitted to enjoy themselves with as little interference as possible. Almost all were of the middle and lower classes, and by far the larger part were under twenty years of age.

It was interesting to observe that the densest crowds were congregated where there was some vigorous manifestation of active life to be seen. Strange forms, or brilliant colours, alone, were not half so attractive. In the fish-house there was no crowd around the beautiful aquatic gardens of sea-anemones, which were too inert and vegetable-like to fix the attention; while the tanks of pipe-fish, bullheads, and flounders, which, though little remarkable in form or colour, were in constant motion, had an unfailing throng of observers. The young salmon and trout, too, attracted much attention, as did the largest fish in the house—the pike—and whether he were really pike or jack was an oft-discussed question. The sluggish Camel and Dromedary and the gentle Llamas were merely gazed at in passing, while the dens of the great carnivora were surrounded by an eager crowd, which, towards feeding time, increased, till every available spot from which a view could possibly be obtained was fully occupied. Even in the monkey-house, though the liveliness of the Chimpanzee, and the gravity of the Orang, and the uncouth semblance to humanity of both, excited much interest, yet it was the active gambols of the smaller monkeys that most amused the holiday - makers. The Chimpanzee evidently enjoyed her unusually brilliant reception, and showed herself to great advantage. She seemed to have a decided predilection for those small and somewhat shabby little boys in whom she might perhaps recognize a remote kinship; for she would often swing herself suddenly down close to some urchin, whose face was then on a level with her own, and seem to examine him attentively. The Orang was also comparatively lively, but her superior gravity of demeanour and larger size caused her to be unanimously set down as the grandparent of her more active companion, whereas it is hardly necessary to inform our readers that both are really children, of a very small growth indeed as compared with their sires. The monkeys altogether had a fine time of it, for, besides an unlimited supply of nuts, biscuits, and oranges, toys, in the shape of stray ribbons, feathers, and hair-nets were to be seen in the possession of many a fortunate jacko; while one little fellow was dreadfully puzzled. while one little fellow was dreadfully puzzled with a piece of looking-glass, which he kept all to himself for at least half an hour, examining it most critically in every possible position, and exciting shouts of laughter in the spectators by the perfectly human expression of amaze-ment and confusion excited by the hopeless

The crowds which thronged the gardens were well divided, owing to the principal attractions being very widely scattered. The two Elephants in the large enclosure were seen conveniently by thousands at a time. The Hippopotami and Giraffes had a numerous and well-conducted levée. The reptile-house was excessively crowded. The seals were an unfailing attraction, and a continual stream poured through the tunnel under the park road, to penetrate the mystery of the unknown land beyond, as evinced by frequent exclamations of "Let's go and see what's through there." Towards evening, however, tired of mere intellectual and "animal" pursuits, the younger portion of the company determined that the more emotional and sympathetic faculties should have their turn, and forming themselves into several groups for "kiss in the ring," engaged in that national pastime with much decorum.

The new monkey-house completed last year has been certainly a great success, and for the first time we believe in this country, two of the large anthropoid apes have passed a rather severe winter without contracting cough and consumption. The animals kept in this house

are more healthy and better behaved than before, and visitors can now enjoy their amusing gambols free from the annoyance of a vitiated atmosphere. We trust, however, that the Council will not rest contented here, but carry out what they have so well begun to its legitimate completion. Last year a most interesting series of rare quadrumana was obtained, numerous spider monkeys, the red howlers, and the rare Lagothrix Humboldtii, which, there can be now little doubt, died for want of proper accommodation. Should a similar accession arrive this year, to say nothing of the long-expected Gorilla, which is sure sooner or later to be obtained, there will be no room for them in the present house without excessive crowding and consequent deterioration of the atmosphere and danger to the animals. The baboons and many of the African and Indian monkeys are comparatively hardy, and require neither the moisture nor the equable temperature that is essential to the dwellers in the damp equatorial forests. We trust, therefore, that no time will be lost in increasing the accommodation for the quadrumana, either by separate houses, or what would be far better, by wings or antechambers at each extremity of the present house, which would be sufficiently warmed by the surplus heat that now escapes from the main building into the open air. The glazed portion of the existing roof should also be made double, as by this means an enormous escape of heat would be prevented, and fuel greatly economized. The true principle on which to build such a house, and that by which the greatest economy of fuel would be attained, we believe, would be, to have an entirely separate inner glass-house, which alone should be heated. All the heat which now escapes into the garden would then go to warm the outer house, and the fuel burnt would thus do double work, besides rendering it very easy to keep up a perfectly uniform temperature with very good ventilation. The wings and double roof now suggested as additions to the present building will, however, have in some degree the same effect, and render it easy to keep up a more uniform and moister atmosphere. A few large and leafy trees and shrubs might be grown with advantage at each end of the building, and with a thick growth of creepers over the roof, the monkey-house will approach perfection. We feel convinced that if this is done, the anthropoid apes may be preserved in health for many years, and naturalists may then appreciate the extraordinary aspect they present in the adult form, of which the young specimens hitherto seen in Europe can give but a faint idea.

The Zoological Society of London is now a striking example of good management, and deserves the thanks of the public for the great enjoyment it affords them. Few people are aware how much they are indebted to this Society, but they will perhaps understand it better when we state that last year near 28,000%. was spent upon the gardens and scientific publieations, less than 13,000%. of which was contributed by the public in the shape of admission fees to the gardens. The Fellows of the Society can derive no pecuniary benefit from it, all surplus income being spent in adding to the collection and improving the grounds; and any one who has seen the thousands of the middle and lower classes who throng them on such holidays as Easter Monday, many spending the whole day there in the enjoyment of fresh air and bright flowers, and the sight of the most varied and wonderful collection of living animals that has ever been brought together-and all by the payment of sixpence—must feel that the Zoological Society is a public benefactor, and merits fuller recognition from our rulers than it has hitherto received. While the Royal, the Linnean, the Chemical, the Geological, and the Geographical Societies all have lodgings free of expense provided by the Government, the Zoological, besides rent for its house in Hanoversquare, pays 500% a-year for the ground it occupies in the Regent's Park. It is true the public pay for admission to the Society's gardens; and that, we understand, is the ground on which the remission of the rent has been refused; but it is evident that some payment is essential to the public's full enjoyment of the gardens, since without the revenue derived from this source they could not possibly be maintained in their present high state of perfection. The Society is, it must be remembered, a purely scientific body. It does at least as much for science as its sister societies; but because it furnishes the public with an elevating and instructive source of enjoyment at the very minimum of expense, is it therefore not considered to be entitled to that amount

of assistance and recognition which the less popular scientific societies have granted to them?

There is one way in which we think the Zoological Society might fairly meet the Government on this question. It is to give another cheap day to the public. The early closing movement now enables many of the working classes to get out on Saturday afternoon and evening; and if on this day, as well as on Monday, the charge for admission were sixpence, it would be a real boon to the people, and might even be pecuniarily beneficial to the Society; and there can surely be no serious objection to changing the band day to the middle of the week.

We trust that some of our legislators will see justice done to this most useful and instructive institution, and it must ever be remembered that any rent remitted or more land granted to the Society would really be given back to the public, who will benefit by every addition to the gardens, and by the privilege of beholding the many strange and wonderfully-organized creatures which our widely extended commerce and numerous colonies give us such exceptional facilities for obtaining, but which, without the Zoological Society, would never be brought together, nor so well and conveniently exhibited.

## NEW STANDARD OF ELECTRICAL RESISTANCE.

A NOTICE appeared in The Reader of Feb. 18, to the effect that copies of a certain standard of electrical resistance, issued by a committee of the British Association, could now be purchased. The meaning of the notice was clear enough to those specially occupied in electrical tests; but a short explanation of what is meant by a standard of resistance, and what the new standard is, may be interesting even to those who have not paid special attention to this branch of science.

The science of electricity is rapidly becoming exact and definite in this sense—that any particular electrical phenomenon can be described numerically, or measured with extreme nicety, and the results of any particular electrical combination predicted with almost mathematical accuracy. One simple example of this is found in the calculation of the magnitude of an electrical or voltaic current. The magnitude of a current-whether this be defined according to its power of effecting chemical decomposition, or of exerting force upon a magnet-is found to depend on two elements-viz., the electromotive force, or power of producing a current in the battery or other rheomotor, and the resistance, as it is termed, of the circuit. In mathematical language, this is expressed by the equation known as Ohm's law:  $C = \frac{E}{R}$  where C is the current, E the electromotive force, and R the resistance. Thus, where two of these three elements are known, the magnitude of the third can be predicted with certainty. But it may be asked, What is meant by an electrical measurement? How can you measure three things which have no substantial existence tangible to the senses? Measurement simply means comparison, and in the simplest forms of electrical measurement one current is simply compared with another, one electromotive force with another, one resistance with another. Currents are compared by their effects; resistances of circuits, and parts of circuits, by the currents produced in them by a given source of electricity or rheomotor; and electromotive forces by the currents produced in circuits of a given resistance. Thus all these things are mensurable, although we may be wholly unable to say what a current, resistance, electromotive force, or electricity itself, is. Indeed, this point as to what electricity may be, is a wholly unimportant one, and establishes no distinction between electrical and any other observations. Thus, to take the simplest case, we measure weights without any knowledge of the cause of gravitation, or, in other words, without knowing what weight is.

We may assume that weights would be compared long before a common unit, such as a pound, would be established by general consent. The first idea would simply be that one of two things was heavier than another; the next step would be to ascertain how many times one was heavier than the other, and finally people would perceive that, instead of in each case comparing the two or more things of which they wished to know the relative weights, it would be simpler to choose some given weight, call that weight one, or the unit, and measure all other weights by the number expressing how many times heavier they were than the unit. What

has been said concerning weight applies equally to length, time, heat, and electrical phenomena. First, it was recognized that one electrical resistance was greater than another; then the ratio between various resistances was measured; and now electrical resistances are expressed as simply so many units. But what shall be the unit? This point in old times, and for familiar measures, was probably settled by pure chance. We are quite ignorant of the origin of the pound or yard, and even the metre must be looked upon as, to some extent, the result of an accidental choice; but while the British measures are utterly unconnected one with another, and appear to have been each chosen at haphazard, the metrical system, on the contrary, having been established when the relations between a cube and the length of one of its sides were understood, is a coherent and rational system, so framed that mathematical formulæ can be applied to practice without the introduction of unnecessary co-efficients, such as those English engineers must use when they have to express in gallons the contents of a reservoir measured in feet, or in acres the contents of a field measured, perhaps, in yards. It will now readily be seen that in many cases the choice of a unit is no longer free. No man measuring time in seconds, and lengths in feet, would propose as the unit of velocity any other than the velocity of one foot per second. But how do these con-siderations affect electrical units? First of all, we must clearly so choose our units that the unit electromotive force will produce the unit current in a circuit of unit resistance; otherwise, the simple equation given above,  $C = \frac{E}{R}$ would no longer hold true. Thus, when two of the three required units are chosen, the third will be determined. The above condition expresses fully the relation between the three electrical magnitudes in question, and if these electrical phenomena were independent of all other kinds of measurement, we might choose two of our three units at random; but the electrical phenomena are far from being inde-The passage pendent of mechanical effects. of a current invariably produces some effect, which can be measured as mechanical effect or work. Thus it produces heat, which can be, by Joules' discovery, expressed as equivalent to so many foot-pounds. It raises a weight, which is direct work; or it effects chemical decomposition, which also indirectly represents a certain number of foot-pounds; in fine, its action invariably produces an effect equivalent to work, and if this effect be called W, a law has been established by experiment expressed by the equation W = RC2 t, where t is the time during which the current acts. If we now choose, as would be most simple, to insist that the unit of current shall in the unit of time, or second, produce the unit of work while passing through a circuit of unit resistance, we shall have a second relation between our three units, leaving us the arbitrary choice of one only. But even this freedom is taken from us, if we choose that our units shall be selected with reference to the force exerted between a magnet and an electrical current. The unit current is then naturally chosen as that which acts with unit force on the unit pole of a magnet (as defined by Gauss) when at unit distance. By accepting this third relation as fundamental, the three electrical units are, so to speak, chosen, and chosen without arbitrarily taking the resistance of any one piece of matter as the unit, or the force of any given battery, or the magnitude of any arbitrary voltaic current.

The unit of electrical resistance, based on the above considerations, is termed the absolute electromagnetic unit, and may be defined as follows:—

It is the resistance of a conductor, in which an effect equivalent to one unit of work is produced in one second of time, by a current of such magnitude that each metre of its length would exert the unit force on a unit magnetic pole at a unit distance.

The units of force, work, and magnetic pole are those known as absolute; and the committee, hoping for the acceptance of the new unit on the Continent, have chosen the metre, gramme, and second as the fundamental mechanical standards.

Those who wish to know why these units of force, of time, of length, and of work were chosen as the foundation of the committee's proposal, should consult the reports published by the British Association, where they will also find by what means the committee have succeeded in producing a tangible material standard—i.e., a certain platinum silver wire, which actually answers to the above apparently intangible defini-

tion—or rather to 10,000,000 times the unit as defined above—and answers to it so exactly, that there is probably no greater difference than one-thousandth part between the mathematical conception and the material standard. One-thousandth part is, however, a very considerable amount in electrical tests as they are now made, and the committee, although they consider that the approximation to the theoretical desideratum is as close as can be at present expected, send out copies of their standard, which are correct, as copies, to one-hundred-thousandth

part.

The unit of resistance resulting from the relations given above would be called ten millions of absolute metres per second. But inasmuch as the committee's unit is not—as indeed no material unit ever can be—exactly the absolute unit (or rather 10,000,000 times that unit), they do not propose to call it so, but only to call it the BA unit, or, as some propose, the Ohmad. The metre is based on a measurement of the earth's circumference, but an error in the original measurement has not altered the length of the metre, which has been maintained constant. Precisely in the same way the committee desire that, if hereafter more accurate determinations should be made in absolute measure than they have been able to effect, this should not change their standard, but should only lead to the introduction of a small correction in calculations which may require it.

The standard itself is made in four different materials, twice in each, and is, therefore, represented eight times over. These eight representations of the one standard will be deposited at Kew, and it is the copies of these which can now be bought.

One objection which has been urged against the standard is, the complication of the definition on which it is based, which will, no doubt, be unintelligible to many who may have to use it. This objection falls to the ground when it is considered that the copies are used as any other resistance units would be: they are made in the same manner and of similar materials. The basis of the choice no more affects the uses of the standard in ordinary comparisons than the diameter of the earth interests a Paris mercer

measuring ribbons. Various other proposals for units of resistance have lately been made. They one and all repose on some arbitrary choice of a given length and weight of some more or less suitable material, selected generally with the view to greater ease or certainty of reproduction if the standard be lost, or where copies cannot be obtained. The fact that these units would be isolated, arbitrary units, like the gallon or acre, chosen without any regard to the laws connecting electrical phenomena one with another, or with mechanical effects, is fatal to their claims for adoption, and no method of reproduction yet proposed seems likely to approach in accuracy the copies which can be multiplied at will of a given material standard. It is, indeed, not a little surprising that electrical comparisons of various resistances can be made with much greater accuracy than measurements of length by any ordinary appliances. The writer received from four distinct observers the measurement of the ratio between four different copies of the BA standard, and four copies of a standard proposed by Dr. Siemens, of Berlin. The four values gave respectively the B A unit as equal to 1 0456, 1 0457, 1 0456, and 1 0455 times Siemens' unit. It is to be doubted whether four comparisons between four different metres and four different feet would agree as

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

Professor Agassiz and party have left New York on the way to South America. The professor's chief object is to make extensive collections in zoology and other natural sciences. The expense of the trip itself will be defrayed by Mr. Thayer, of Boston; and the preparations, purchase of instruments, &c., were at the cost of the Massachusetts Museum of Comparative Zoology, which is to receive the specimens brought home. Very important and interesting results are expected from this expedition, which will probably be absent a year at least.

In the year 1854 the managers of the Royal Institution announced that the Actonian prize of 105l. would be awarded in 1858 to the best "Essay illustrative of the wisdom and beneficence of the Almighty, as manifested by the influence of solar radiation." In 1858, no award was given, as no essay of sufficient merit had been received. A second 100 guineas was added to the first, and the whole, or part, according to

merit, was to be given in 1865 for an essay on the same subject, taking, however, any of the phenomena of radiation. At the meeting of the managers of the Institution, on the first Monday in this month, half the prize, 105*l.*, was awarded to Mr. G. Warington, F.C.S., whose essay was far superior to those of the other candidates.

M. VALENCIENNES, for many years the collaborateur of Cuvier and the friend of Humboldt, has just succumbed to a long and dangerous illness. His death was announced at the last meeting of the French Academy of Sciences.

THE annual prize of 20,000f. which is given by the French Institute alternately to science, art, and literature, this year falls to the lot of the Academy of Sciences, by whom it will be awarded in the month of August.

THE following is the list of candidates for the place of correspondent in the Botanical Section of the French Academy. In the first rank, M. Hofmeister, of Heidelberg. In the second rank, according to the alphabet, M. de Bary, of Fribourg-en-Brisgan; Mr. Asa Gray, of Cambridge, Mass.; Dr. Hooker, of Kew; M. Parlatore, of Florence; and M. Pringsheim, of Jena. The election took place at the last meeting of the Academy, when M. Hofmeister was elected by 32 out of 44 votes. Dr. Hooker obtained 9, and Mr. Parlatore 3 votes.

THE Committee of the Italian Scientific Congress, which ought this year to meet at Naples, announces that the opening of the Congress, at first fixed for May 7th, is put off to the 24th of September.

Many of our readers will no doubt recollect "Eidos Æides," which was performed at Her Majesty's Theatre during the winter. It has been made the subject of a patent by the inventor, Mr. Maurice, from whose specification we learn the manner in which this clever delusion is produced. It is perhaps necessary to say that it consists in causing an actor or an inaminate object which is in full view of the audience at one moment, to disappear instantly, and then to reappear with the same rapidity. The means by which this is accomplished are very simple, and are to some extent similar to those used in exhibiting "Pepper's Ghost." A sheet of plain unsilvered glass is placed upon the stage either upright or inclined at a suitable angle at the place where the actor or object is to disappear. This glass

by which this is accomplished are very simple, and are to some extent similar to those used in exhibiting "Pepper's Ghost." A sheet of plain unsilvered glass is placed upon the stage either upright or inclined at a suitable angle at the place where the actor or object is to disappear. This glass is not perceived by the audience, and it does not interfere with their view of the scenery, &c., behind the plate. A duplicate scene representing that part of the back of the stage covered by the glass is placed at the wing, out of sight of the spectators. With the ordinary lighting of the stage the reflection of this counterfeit scene in the glass is too faint to be observed; but when a strong light is thrown upon the scene, the stage lights being lowered at the same time, the image becomes visible. This duplicate scene being an exact facsimile of the background of the stage, the change is not noticed by the audience, the only difference being that they now see by reflection that which they saw a moment pre-viously by direct vision. The actor, standing at a sufficient distance behind the glass, is completely hidden from view, and he is again ren-dered visible by turning down the light on the false scene and allowing the stage lights to pre-dominate. When "Eidos Æides" was being performed at Her Majesty's Theatre it was, however, possible, with a good opera-glass, to distinguish the outline of the figure behind the The effects produced may, of course, be modified. An actor may be made to appear walking or flying in the air, or dancing on a tight-

The Moniteur Belge announces the arrival at Antwerp, on the 13th inst., of a deputation of English geologists en route for Dinant, whence they intend to visit the caverns of Furfooz, where the recent interesting geological and archæological excavations have been carried on. The deputation consisted of Mr. Hamilton, President of the Geological Society, Mr. Godwin-Austen, Professor Busk, Mr. Prestwich, and Mr. Jeffreys. It was their intention to proceed to Louvain, to meet Professor Van Beneden, and to inspect the collection in the University Museum. From thence they were to visit Maestricht. Mr. Henry Christy was expected to join them in a few days.

rope, by eclipsing or obscuring a raised platform

on which he may be placed.

THE fourth session of the National Academy of Sciences was held at the Capitol in Washington on the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th of January of the present year. The three vacancies in the Academy were filled by the election of Professor O. N. Rood and General M. C. Meigs to the

class of mathematics and physics, and Professor J. P. Kirtland to the class of natural history. The following papers were read: 1. "On a Chronograph for Measuring the Velocities of Projectiles," by J. E. Hilgard. 2. "Homologies and Classification of the Cephalopods;" L. Agassiz. 3. "Geographical Distribution of North American Birds;" S. F. Baird. 4. "On the Tables of the Moon;" Benjamin Peirce. 5. "Metamorphoses of some Malacopterygians;" L. Agassiz. 6. "On Chemical Classification;" W. Gibbs. 7. "Progress of the Geological Survey of California;" J. D. Whitney. 8. "On a Method of Exhibiting certain Statistics of Hospitals;" J. L. Leconte. 9. "Note on the Changes which have taken place in the Bar of Charleston Harbour since the Sinking of Obstructions in the Main Channel, as developed by the U.S. Coast Survey;" J. E. Hilgard. 10. "Glacial Phenomena and Present Configuration of the State of Maine;" L. Agassiz. 11. "Dimensions and Proportions of American Soldiers;" B. A. Gould. 12. "On a Regulator for Maintaining Uniform Motion, and an Apparatus for Recording Time-observations in Type;" J. E. Hilgard. 13. "Mineral Lands of the United States, and the Relation of the Government to their Management;" J. D. Whitney. 14. "Origin and Formation of Sedimentary Rocks;" J. S. Newberry. 15. "Origin and Distribution of Petroleum in the U.S.;" J. S. Newberry. Alexander Braun, G. B. Airy, R. Owen, Professor F. Wöhler, Sir R. 1. Murchison, and M. V. Regnault, were elected Foreign Associates. The next session of the Academy will be held at Northampton, Mass., on Wednesday, the 23rd of August, 1865.

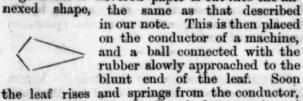
Mr. GLAISHER has given, in a lecture at the Royal Institution, a resumé of his scientific experiments in balloons. Tables recording the decline of temperature with elevation, show that when the sky was clear a more rapid decline took place than when the sky was cloudy. Under a clear sky, a fall of 1° takes place within 100 feet of the earth, but at heights exceeding 25,000 feet it is necessary to pass through 1,000 feet of vertical height to obtain a fall of 1° in temperature. At extreme elevations, in both states of the sky, the air became very dry, but asfaras his experiments went, was never quite free from water. From ascents made before and after sunset, Mr. Glaisher concludes that the laws which hold good by day do not hold good by night; indeed, it seemed probable that at night, for some little distance the temperature may increase with elevation, instead of decreasing. From experiments made on solar radiation with a blackened bulb thermometer, and with Herschel's actinometer, it was inferred that the heat rays from the sun pass through space without loss, and become effective in proportion to the density or the amount of water present in the atmosphere through which they pass. If this be so, the proportion of heat received at Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn may be the same as that received at the Earth, if the constituents of their atmospheres be the same as that of the Earth, and greater if the amount of aqueous vapour be greater, so that the effective solar heat at Jupiter and Saturn may be greater than at either the inferior planets, Mercury or Venus, notwithstanding their far greater distances from the Sun. This conclusion is most important as corroborating Professor Tyndall's experiments on aqueous vapour. Experiments on the wind showed that the velocity of the air at the Earth's surface was very much less than at a high elevation. A comparison of the temperature of the dew point, as shown by different instruments, gave results proving that the temperatures of the dew point, as found by the use of the dry and wet bulb thermometers, and Daniell's hygrometer, are worthy of full confidence as far as the experiments went.

The magnetic inclination at St. Petersburg has been determined with great precision, and recently published. The mean of fifty observations made from February 15th to November 17th, 1863, have shown it to be 70° 47' 8.

Sondhauss (Pogg. Ann., March, 1865) details some experiments on the sounds produced by water flowing through orifices in plates cemented at the bottom of upright tubes, in order to compare the resulting musical tones with those produced by a blast of air under the same circumstances. He found if the plate was thick in proportion to the diameter of the orifice, no tone could be heard. With small orifices in thin plates air would produce no sound, while water flowing through the same orifice produced a distinct note. Another diffe-

rence between the musical capabilities of air and water was that, by increased pressure, air would produce several successive harmonic tones, while with water the quality only of the tone changed. He found, as Savart had previously, that the sound depended on the tube as well as the orifice. Sondhauss believes that a musical sound can be produced by filling the mouth with water and squirting it out through a small opening between the lips; but he could not ascertain if any one had ever successfully practised this desirable accomplishment. He states, in conclusion, that, from the readiness with which sounds are produced by liquids, there is great probability that the depths of the sea are not the silent abodes which we usually suppose. The fish, by squirting out or sucking in water through orifices in their mouths or in their opercula, might readily produce great varieties of tones. The genera Cottus and Trigla, which are known to produce sounds, are probably by no means the only vocal fish; and, in fact, the saying "Mute as a fish" should be discarded from the company of unimpeachably true proverbs.

THE pretty experiment of the "flying fish," described in The Reader for February 11th, has since excited some attention in Paris. M. l'Abbé Laborde and M. Salleron have both written to Les Mondes on the subject. Each suggests making use of the conductor of an electrical machine in place of a charged Leyden jar. M. l'Abbé Laborde says, in the following manner the experiment can be easily made by any who possess an ordinary electrical machine. A piece of gold leaf or silvered paper is cut into the annexed shape, the same as that described



the leaf rises and springs from the conductor, remaining hovering in the air between it and the ball. The finger can be substituted for the ball, and the leaf led even vertically round the conductor with a considerable intervening space. The distance of the leaf from the rubber almost entirely depends upon the size of the blunt angle—the more obtuse this angle, the nearer the leaf approaches to the rubber. The explanation given by M. l'Abbé Laborde is, that the point presented to the electrified body receiving electricity of the same name is repelled, which it would be altogether, were it not that it parts with its electricity by the other point, can be again attracted by the electrified body, and is again repelled. Thus repulsion takes place in approaching the conductor, because it receives more than it loses, but immediately attraction ensues, because now it loses more than it receives. The equilibrium between these two opposing forces enables the gold leaf to maintain itself in the air at a distance from both solid bodies.

THE Association Scientifique, headed by M. Le Verrier, exhibits great energy. It commenced by the application of some 2,000% to the construction of large astronomical instruments; next it devoted 320% to prizes for meteorological studies; and it has just authorized a committee of its council to draw up a scheme for the employment of a sum of 240% in the encouragement of physical science. The committee has made its report, which has been adopted. The sum of 1,000 francs is to be devoted to an inquiry, to be made by M. Cazin, into the dynamical theory of heat. Another sum of 700 francs is to be placed at the disposal of M. A. Terquem, of Metz, for the apparatus necessary to work out his theory of the vibrations of plates, rods, and cords; the apparatus to remain the property of the association. A third sum of 500 francs is devoted to the purchase of a spectro-scope, and a collection of crystals, prisms, and lenses, to be placed at the disposition of M. Gernez, of Dijon, for experiments on the rotatory power of quartz at high temperatures. Two further sums, each of 500 francs, are to be given to M. Gaugain and M. Diacon, to assist those gentlemen in their researches in electricity and the spectrum analysis. It is hoped that next year the association will be able still more to extend its operations.

THE Chemical News states that M. Dode, a French chemist, has introduced platinum mirrors, which are greatly admired, and which present this advantage, that the reflecting metal is deposited on the outer surface of the glass, and thus any defect in the latter is concealed. The process, which is patented in Paris, is described as follows: Chloride of platinum is dissolved in water, and a

certain quantity of oil of lavender is added to the solution. The platinum immediately leaves the aqueous solution and passes to the oil, which holds it in suspension in a finely divided state. To the oil so charged the author adds litharge and borate of lead, and paints a thin coat of this mixture over the surface of the glass, which is then carried to a proper furnace. At a red heat the litharge and borate of lead are fused and cause the adhesion of the platinum to the softened glass. The process is very expeditious. A single baking, M. Dode says, will furnish 200 metres of glass ready for commerce. It would take fifteen days, he says, to coat the same extent with mercury by the ordinary plan. The Chemical News goes on to state that a reduction of from forty to one hundred per cent. in cost of looking-glass will result from the adoption of this process. This surely is much better than presenting the patent only to the public. The sale will certainly be enormous, seeing that the purchasers will have nothing to pay.

We learn from the same source that an apparatus has been constructed in France, by MM. Meuley and Virdier, which shows upon two dials, placed in sight of the occupant, the actual distance traversed by a vehicle, the time occupied in performing the journey, and lastly, the time spent in waiting, if any calls are made on the way.

The position and action of the ciliary processes in the human eye has for some time been studied by Dr. Becker, a German physician. The most important conclusion at which he arrives is—that the ciliary processes are never in contact with the crystalline lens, and that they separate from the lens just at the time when the eye accommodates itself to near objects, they therefore bear no direct relation to the mechanism of accommodation. Consequently Dr. Becker believes that all hypotheses that admit pressure on the lens by the ciliary processes must be abandoned.

THE preparations for the Cologne Inter-national Exhibition are making great progress, and much valuable assistance has been received by the projectors from foreign Governments and men of science. In Southern Germany, and especially in Würtemburg, extraordinary interest has been manifested in the proposed Exhibition. Turkey will send a rich collection of specimens of its natural products, France a collection of the various woods found in her forests, and the Rheno-Westphalian Silk-manufacturing Company the apparatus used in making silk. In the machine department there are steam ploughs and steam fire-engines of every kind, comprising all the new inventions in this respect. Firearms, carriages, and street locomotives, are also numerously represented at the Exhibition. The various processes used in the new and interesting art of pisciculture are thoroughly illustrated by a very complete apparatus provided by Herr von Scheven, director of the Rheno-Prussian Agricultural Society. The agricultural department will, it is said, be very strong in its exhibition of different kinds of corn and other articles of food, and of the apparatus used in the various stages of their manufacture. There is also to be a rich collection of filaments of plants for spinning purposes. The Compagnie Française at Boufaick, in Algiers, has sent some very interesting specimens of cotton and flax, and Herr Friedländer, a gentleman whose great experience in the cultivation of flax is well known, has also made some valuable contributions to this department of the Exhibition.

Daily meteorological reports are now received at Paris from sixty-five stations situated in different parts of Europe, and the Observatory transmits a summary of these observations every day to Brussels, together with the 'forecasts' for the next day. The authorities at the Brussels Observatory send these to the principal seaports on the coast of Flanders. A semi-official article in the Moniteur Belge of the 18th ult. contains an appeal to the captains of Belgian vessels to further one of the objects of the Society, by keeping a record of the height of the barometer during their Atlantic voyages. It may, perhaps, be within the recollection of our readers that the association offers five prizes of 300f. each for the best series of observations made at sea, which, when sufficiently numerous, will furnish data for recording the progress of storms. The French Observatory has already a sufficient number of these observations to warrant the publication, under the name of Storm-maps (atlas des tempêtes), of charts showing the motion of the tempests of the last year. We need scarcely say that such a series will possess very great value. Some of the remarks in the Moniteur are of more than mere local interest, and will perhaps serve as a guide to others besides those for whom they were intended. 'It is to be remarked that we do not expect observations possessing that amount of exactitude which could be attained by a scientific expedition; their number would be too small to be of much use. The sea is of vast extent, and to follow the path of a tempest on its surface, observations taken at a great number of points are necessary. The day and hour, the ship's place as shown by the log-book, the height of the barometer, the direction and force of the wind, and the state of the sky and sea, furnish valuable and sufficient data.' The director of the Brussels Observatory undertakes to receive the observations of those captains who may feel inclined to take the matter up.

A NEW form of electric telegraph has been devised by M. d'Arlincourt. The instrument is figured and described in last week's Les Mondes. The advantages of this telegraph are stated to be great. It is easy to work, and hence has been named the municipal telegraph, in anticipation of its being chiefly used as a means of communication between citizens. The commutator, indicator, and printing mechanism of this telegraph are connected with each other, and are all enclosed in the same instrument.

M. DUCHEMIN, who recently announced to the Paris Academy of Sciences that in Bunsen's battery a solution of chloride of sodium could be substituted for the dilute sulphuric acid, has since found that this acid can be replaced with greater advantage by making use of a weak solution of sulphate of iron.

#### SCIENTIFIC CORRESPONDENCE.

FORMATION OF LAKE BASINS.

I HAVE waited until the appearance of the last number of The Reader, in the hopes of seeing a reply to the very fair challenge of your correspondent "M." in the issue of 1st April. He asks for an explanation of the modus operandiby which the excavation of lake basins, according to Professor Ramsay's theory, might have been effected. Without pretending to any very profound views, I have thought a good deal upon the subject, and if "M." had happened to have seen a letter of mine in The Reader of April 9, 1864 (just a year ago), he would, perhaps, have felt less difficulty upon the subject of the removal of the detritus. I shall, however, at the present time attempt a rather fuller discussion of the mechanical problem.

The simplest mode of looking at the question appears to be to consider the glacier already at work in its sloping valley, and having its lower portion in occupation of a lake basin, without inquiring how that basin originated; and then to inquire whether the ice so occupying the basin would be competent to deepen and enlargeit.

A glacier has been well compared to a river of ice; and under certain conditions it obeys the law of gravity in some respects similarly to a liquid. Hence the long-debated question of viscosity. That it is viscous appears to be an erroneous assertion; but that, when its parts are subject to pressure, it acts like a viscous fluid, is to some extent true. Faraday and Tyndall have explained that this behaviour of ice under pressure is due to the law of regelation, by which at 32° Far. its particles, after their continuity has been broken, immediately cohere afresh when brought into contact.

This property in ice permits of a certain amount of freedom of motion among its particles, its character of a solid being all the while maintained, so that when sufficient masses are under consideration, and sufficient time for the adjustment of the parts is allowed, it affects on the large scale the movements of a fluid under the action of gravity. Thus if two portions of glacier ice of unequal altitude were placed side by side in a containing hollow, the more lofty mass would have its lower parts pressed out laterally into the lower parts of the other, raising its surface until the two became sensibly of the same height. Hence we see two tributary branches of a glacier unite to form one trunk glacier of a uniform level, whose surface obeys the same laws of form as that of a river, swelling slightly above the general plane where the supply of material is more rapid and the motion greater. Hence also it happens that the glacier fills successively the narrower and wider portions of its bed. But this accommodation of the form of the glaciers to the requirements of gravity is a comparatively slow process, as is shown by the ice-walls exposed for some distance where the

glacier has lately passed a projecting cape of rock; for in doing so the ice has already a longitudinal motion, while the transverse motion of its parts, in virtue of which it fills the wider channel, has to be set up de novo after it has passed the narrow.

It is in this mode of action of the parts of a glacier that we must seek the vis a tergo so often spoken of. We must not look upon it as a rigid body, any force applied to the one end of which will be felt at the other. For a force of sufficient magnitude will cause a rearrangement of its particles and an alteration of its form. The manner in which the motive force is applied is analogous to the case of a river. The tendency of the ice descending its inclined bed is to heap up material at any given point, where, becoming too heavy to be supported by the retardation of the bed and the rigidity of its parts, and pressing outwards in all directions, it is constrained to move forwards, or forwards and sidewards, since it cannot force back the weight behind it. It will, of course, be understood that I am speaking of those parts of a glacier which are under longitudinal compression, not of ice falls and such parts as are subject to tension, where the tendency to descend the inclined bed is greater than that of the ice behind to follow.

Supposing, then, that a glacier, after descending an inclined bed, occupies a lake basin with its lower extremity, it is manifest that fresh material will be supplied at its upper end faster than the movement of the particles, inter se, can accommodate themselves to form a horizontal surface. The ice will therefore be heaped up at that place, and its thickness will be increased according to the rapidity of the supply—that is, to the depth and inclination of the glacier. This elevated end will, by its continual subsidence, push forward the ice in the directions of least resistance, and thus the glacier occupying the basin will advance towards its outfall.

Mr. Hopkins (Phil. Mag., January, 1845) has

Mr. Hopkins (Phil. Mag., January, 1845) has shown that the retarding force upon ice, where it is in contact with the rock, is not ordinary friction; but that it is due to the continual disintegration by melting, of the particles forming the lowest stratum; and that, whereas the particles of ice in contact with the rock are capable, so long as they remain a part of the solid mass, of exerting a considerable force to prevent sliding, they are incapable of exerting any sensible force when they become detached from the mass by the liquefaction, or disintegration, of its lower surface. Hence, he explains the fact of the sliding motion of a glacier not being an accelerated motion, and also of the capacity of gravity to urge a glacier down very slight declivities; that of the Aar glacier being, for instance, less than 3°.

This fact seems to explain the abrading power of a glacier. For whatever retarding force there is must be caused, not by the friction of the ice itself, but by the grit and stones which it holds in its grasp as it slides by disintegration over the rock. These are capable of scratching the rock on account of their hardness, and the whole power of the glacier is applied to them instead of to the general surface of contact.

It is questioned, however, whether there would be any motion in the lower stratum of ice in a lake basin. It is a known fact that the upper portion of a glacier moves faster than the lower parts. Would, then, the lower portions at the bottom of a glacier move forward at all? If the particles of ice have to travel forward, will all the motion take place in the portions above the lowest layer, or will the lowest layer also partake of the motion? It may be conceived that, for a given surface velocity, the depth of a glacier may be so profound that there can be no motion at the bottom. But it is a fact that there has been motion, even in opposition to gravity, at the bottom of ancient glaciers, as is shown by the bosses of rock smoothed by them. It might have been supposed that the accommodation of parts, inter se, necessary to have carried the glacier past such obstacles might have taken place without motion in the lowest stratum up-hill; but such has not been the case. A fortiori, therefore, we may expect that the bottom of a basin, having so small an angle of inclination, would be in general abraded, and at the same time we might expect that such would not be the case beyond a certain limit of depth, which would impose a limit upon the depth of the lake basin.

It must be borne in mind that the power of abrading the bed would depend upon pressure and velocity conjointly. The very circumstance, therefore, of pressure, which would check the velocity, would increase the cutting power of the graver.

But this pressure at the bottom of a basin would, as I explained in my letter of April 9, 1864, be greatly modified by the hydrostatic pressure. Indeed, for a given altitude of the glacier above the out-fall of the basin, its pressure upon the bottom of a basin would be less than upon a horizontal bed, and, so far, motion in the lowest stratum would be mere probable; and the true limit of excavation would be imposed by such a depth being attained that the pressure became wholly removed.

Your correspondent inquires how the detritus, after being abraded, is to be removed. In the first place, it must be recollected that the matter detained by a glacier is in general in a state of extreme subdivision, rendering glacier streams of a milky turbidity, which requires the quiescence of a deep lake for defecation. Hence, if there were a slight circulation of water from the bottom of the basin towards the out-fall, it would seem that the required agency is pro-vided for, and such circulation there must be on account of the gradual thawing of the ice in contact with the rock. That water must be continually rising upwards and flowing towards the outfall, squeezed out by the continual subsidence of the ice above it. What coarser particles were engaged in the lowest stratum of the ice would be gradually carried forwards with it to the same destination. We should not expect any great amount of coarse fragments to find their way to the bottom of the basin, because there would not be the same causes to produce crevasses which exist in an ordinary trunk glacier.

In estimating the phenomena of a lake basin occupied by the lower end of a glacier, the question arises, what course the accompanying river would pursue. Clearly it will no longer flow in a current at the bottom, arched over by the ice, as is the case in the trunk glacier. If the ice were uniform in texture, the stream would be forced to the sides of the basin, where the ice would thin off, and the water find its way partly beneath it, and probably beyond it also. But it does not seem impossible that tunnels might be formed in its substance, which would in some measure modify the action of the water as an assistant depending agent.

assistant denuding agent.

I have considered this interesting question in a rough and general way. I have not the powers of refined mathematical investigation at my command; but I doubt whether the problem in hand is one which is amenable to analytical methods.

O. FISHER.

# PROCEEDINGS OF FOREIGN ACADEMIES. PARIS.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—March 27.—M. St. Cl. Deville communicated the first part of a paper "On the Probable Influence of Asteroids upon Variations in the Temperature of the Air." A note "On the Days of Storm during a Period of Twenty-five Years," was read by M. Coulvier Gravier. An important paper on the classification of the annelids was communicated by M. A. de Quatrefages. A history of Arabian mathematics by M. Chasles. A memoir was read by M. Chatin upon the existence of cortical fibres, or liberiennes, in the woody part of vegetables. M. P. Gervais, in a letter, reported some experiments "Upon the Application of the Electric Light in Geislers' Tubes to Lighting Under Water."

Memoirs were presented "On the Removal of Public Waters after they have served the requirements of the Population, applied to the Town of Marseilles," by M. Grimaud. "Researches on Organic Radicals," by M. Cahours. "On the replacement of Alcohol and Wood-spirit in the solution of the Tinctorial Products obtained from Aniline and its Congeners," by M. G. de Claubry. A notice of this paper will be found in another column.

A well-observed case of phosphorescence of the sea, by Captain Ferrandy, was communicated by the Minister of Marine. "Experimental Researches upon the Phenomena of Imbibition during a Bath," by M. C. de Laurès. A note "Upon the Vegetable Nature of Yeast," by M. Hoffman, of Giessen. "Upon the Theory of Surfaces," a note by M. Nicolaides.

April 10.—The papers read were as follows: "On the Growing, the Production, the Price, and the Consumption of Wheat in France, with Respect to Population and Atmospheric Influences," by M. Becquerel. M. Morin read an extract from a report made to the Minister of Agriculture, &c., "Upon the Organization of Industrial Instruction in Germany and Switzerland." "On the Periodic Perturbations of Temperature in the

Months of February, May, August, and November," by M. St. Cl. Deville. (Second note.) "Upon a Hot-air Machine, with the Maximum Work," by MM. Burdin and Bourget. "On the Fundamental Principles of the Mechanical Theory of Heat," by M. A. Dupré. "Upon the Law of Interrupted Currents," by M. Cazin. "A New Theory of Mechanics," by M. de St. Venant.

The chemical papers were "On the Bromide of Benzylidene, and upon two Hydro-carbons which are derived from it," by MM. Michaelson and Lippmann. "Upon Anomalous Vapour Densities," by M. Wurtz. "On the preparation of Soaps and Fatty Acids fit for the making of Candles," by M. Mège Mouries. "Upon the Phosphates of Thallium," by M. Lamy; and "On a New Mode of Reduction with Neutral Liquids," by M. Lorin.

In physiology a note was presented by M. Demarquay "Upon the Injection of Sulphuretted Hydrogen into the Cellular Tissue, of its rapid absorption, and of its Elimination by the Bronchial Tubes, with a Therapeutic application." "New Researches upon the Artificial Production of Anomalies of Organization," by M. C. Dareste. In surgery a short note "On Experiments in Obstetrical Mechanics," by Dr. X. Delore. Mr. H. Reed sent an English paper "On the Treatment of Cholera." M. Carrère "Upon the Reduction of the Equation of the Second Degree to Three Variables." No abstract of the last two papers. "Upon the Flint Implements of Grand Pressigny," by M. de Mortillet. A memoir by M. P. Harting, already published by the Utrecht Society of Arts and Sciences, was presented to the Academy by M. Flourens. The paper was upon the episternal apparatus of birds.

#### VIENNA.

IMPERIAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. - March 23.—A paper was communicated by Professor Albret Jäger "On the Cause of the Presence of Particles of Sulphuret of Copper in the Paper of Old Books of the periods from 1545-1677. fessor Jäger regards as the cause of this the frequent use in former times of clothing embroidered with gold and silver lace, the remains of which when worked up into paper would furnish a considerable amount of copper from the copper forming the case of the gilt and silvered wire. — Professor Unger communicated a memoir "On Fossil Remains of Plants from Silbenbürgem and Hungary," describing chiefly the plants from the Upper Cutaceous formation (Cenomanian) near Déva. These plants are in so good a state of preservation, that they may be identified with wintry genera. This memoir also contained the description of a fruit from the tertiary beds of Megyasso, and named Cedrella Hagslinskyi, in honour of its discoverer.-Prof. J. Hyrtt communicated a note upon a free body found in the pericardium. - Professor Stefan read a preliminary communication "On Some Thermoelements of Electromotor Power," describing the thermo-electrical power of some minerals.—M. Laube communicated the second part of his work "On the Fauna of the St. Cassian Beds," in which the Brachiopoda and Lamellibranchiata are described. The Bra chiopoda present a greater resemblance to the Palæozoic than to the Mesozoic forms, and it would appear that these beds present a turning point in the history of the development of the Brachiopoda, as the genera Cyrtina, Spirigera, and Retzia have their most recent representatives in them, whilst the Mesozoic types, Waldhimia and Thecidium, make their first appearance, and the peculiar St. Cassian genera Konnickia and Amphiceina form a transition between the two types. M. Laube describes thirty species of Brachiopoda, of which ten are new. Among the ordinary Bivalus, M. Laube establishes the new genus Hörnesia for the Gervilliae, allied to G. socialis. The author describes seventy species of Bivalus, of which eight are new. -M. E. Scholz communicated a note relating to a new physical law of the behaviour of aqueous vapour.

### REPORTS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ROYAL SOCIETY.—March 30th.—We had not space last week to notice the following paper that was read at this meeting:—

"On the Influence of Quantity of Matter over Chemical Affinity, as shown in the Formation of Certain Double Chlorides and Oxalates," by Mr. G. Rainey, M.R.C.S., Lecturer on Microscopical Anatomy, and Demonstrator of Surgical Anatomy at St. Thomas's Hospital. Communicated by Dr. Gladstone.

The results of nearly all the experiments mentioned in this paper were first arrived at by operating upon very minute quantities of material, and by observing under the microscope the changes that took place. Afterwards the same products were obtained by appropriate processes in quantities sufficiently large to admit of being analyzed quantitatively, and of having their formulæ accurately determined. The series of facts noticed in the process of formation of these double salts were - first, the disintegration, and at length complete dissolution, of a class of salts of very sparing solubility, in strong solutions of chlorides of the same base, whilst weaker solutions do not in the least affect them; secondly, the combination under these circumstances of the oxalate and chloride of these bases to form double salts almost as little soluble as the simple oxalates; and lastly, the continued and simultaneous solution and deposition of these salts in a crystalline form in a quantity of fluid but little, if at all, exceeding the weight of the crystals deposited. The most remarkable part of this process is the continued deposition of crystals after the saturation of the fluid in which they were formed, rendering a small portion of fluid sufficient for the production of a comparatively large quantity of crystals.

In conclusion, the author showed that the oxalates are not the only compounds of the alkaline earths which form double salts when brought in contact with strong solutions of chlorides of the same base. Crystals of tartrate of lime put into a saturated solution of chloride of calcium formed a double salt of tartrate and chloride of calcium, which was decomposed by water into tartrate of lime and chloride of calcium. Carbonate of lime under favourable circumstances also combined with the chloride of calcium, forming a double salt, which was acted upon by water, in the same manner as those previously

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. - April 5. - Sir R. I. Murchison, V.P., in the chair.-Messrs. H. C. Barlow, M.D., Stoke Newington; T. M. Hall, Pilton Parsonage, near Barnstaple; J. Lawson, 34, Parliament-street, S.W.; W. Milnes, Blackheath, Kent, and Yeolm Bridge, South Devon; J. S. Perkes, C.E., Belvedere House, West Dul-wich, S.; and M. C. Vincent, C.E., Frankfort, Ohio, U.S., were elected Fellows.

The following communications were read: 1. "On some Tertiary Deposits in the Colony of Victoria, Australia." By the Rev. J. E. T.

The author first referred to a former paper on the Australian Tertiary strata, and then described the beds of Muddy Creek, near Hamilton, mentioning the principal fossils occurring therein, especially a species of Trigonia; he also stated that the same formation occurs at Harrow, on the River Glenelg, about sixty miles to the north-east, as well as in Tasmania. In discussing the age of these beds, he adopted Professor M'Coy's views, that they are of Lower Miocene date; but he considered the Mount Gambier limestone to be more recent, probably older Pliocene, and the Murray River deposits as possibly holding an intermediate position; the latter he therefore considered to represent the Upper and Middle Miocene of Europe. Older than all these are certain strata occurring at Port Philip and elsewhere, which the author referred to the Upper Eocene period. In conclusion, Mr. Woods gave a sketch of the salient features of the Bryozoon-faunce of the deposits occurring at Hamilton and Mount Gambier, chiefly for the purpose of showing that the latter is much the more modern of the two.

In a note, Dr. Duncan enumerated the species of Corals which had been sent him by Mr. Woods; but he stated that, although they had a very recent aspect, no exact geological date

could safely be assigned to them. 2. "On the Chalk of the Isle of Thanet." By Mr. W. Whitaker, of the Geological Survey.

In this district a bed of comparatively flintless chalk overlies one with many flints. The higher division, or Margate Chalk, contains but few scattered flint-nodules, and shows well-marked N.W. and S.E. joints. The lower division, or Broadstairs Chalk, on the other hand, is less jointed, and has many continuous layers of flint. The beds form a very flat arch, as may be seen along the coast from Kingsgate to Pegwell, between which places the flinty chalk rises up from below that with few flints. It is remarkable that in this neighbourhood the Thanet beds are conformable to the chalk, the green-coated nodular flints at the bottom of the former resting on a peculiar bed of tabular flint at the top of

3. "On the Chalk of Buckinghamshire, and on the Totternhoe Stone." By Mr. W. Whitaker.

In carrying on the Geological survey of Buck-inghamshire, the Totternhoe Stone (with its underlying chalky marl), which had been sometimes thought to be the representative of the Upper Greensand, was traced south-westwards into a part where that formation was fairly developed, and was then found to overlie it. The divisions of the chalk in Buckinghamshire are, in ascending order-

(1) Chalk-marl, with stony layers here and at top.

(2) The Totternhoe Stone, generally two layers of rather brownish sandy chalk, hard, with dark grains of small brown nodules.

(3) Marly white chalk, without flints. (4) Hard-bedded white chalk, without flints, forming generally a low ridge at the foot of the great escarpment.

(5) The thick mass of white chalk without flints, or with a very few flints in the uppermost part, and at top.

(6) The "chalk-rock," already described in the Society's Journal, a thin hard bed or beds,

with green-coated nodules. The chalk with flint, the lowermost part only coming on near the top of the escarpment, the rest bed by bed over the table-land southwards, the angle of dip being rather more than that of the slope of the ground.

4. "On the Chalk of the Isle of Wight." By

Mr. W. Whitaker.

The chief object of this paper was to show that here, as in Oxfordshire, &c., the division between the chalk with flints and chalk without flints, is marked by a peculiar bed (chalk-rock), hard, of a cream colour, and with irregular-shaped green-coated nodules, which may be seen in many of the pits on the southern flank of the chalk-ridge, where, however, it is very thin. The author disagreed with the inference that the chalk was eroded before the deposition of the Tertiary beds, which has been drawn from the irregular junction of the two in the cliffsections, and thought that the irregularity had been caused rather by the formation of "pipes' after the deposition of the latter, although he did not deny that there was other evidence of denudation of the chalk before the deposition of the Tertiaries upon it.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—April 11.—Professor

T. H. Huxley, F.R.S., in the chair.

Professor Huxley read a notice of the singular form of the stomach in the Bats of the genus Desmodus, in which the cardiac end of this organ assumes the form of a greatly elongated cocum, reflexed upon itself. This and the peculiarities of the dentition seemed to Professor Huxley to indicate the probable necessity of constituting the genus Desmodus, and its allied form Diphylla, a separate section of the order Chiroptera, under the name Hæmatophilina.— Dr. Crisp read a paper on the form, weight, and structure of the eye, including the colour of the iris, in vertebrate animals. Dr. Crisp also exhibited a drawing of the Aard Vark (Orycteropus capensis), and a figure of the Placenta of the Giraffe.—Dr. Murie communicated some remarks on cases of deformity in the lower jaw of the Sperm Whale (Physeter macrocephalus), which he had found occurring in several specimens in the museums of this country and America.-Mr. Sclater gave a description of new species of Indian Porcupine, proposed to be called *Hystrix malabarica*, distinguished from the ordinary Indian species, H. leucura, by its orange-coloured spines. Four living examples of this new species had lately been presented to the Society by his Excellency Sir William Denison, K.C.B., Governor of Madras. -Dr. J. E. Gray communicated some notes from Mr. E. L. Layard, of Cape Town, Corr. Memb., on the specimens of Whales contained in the South African Museum, Capetown. This was accompanied by characters of two new species of the group, founded upon examples in the South African Museum, which Dr. Gray proposed to call Ziphius Layardii and Hyperoodon capensis. Dr. Gray also communicated a revision of the genera and species of Entomophagous Edentata, founded on an examination of specimens of this group contained in the British Museum. Amongst these were the characters of two species believed to be new to science, and proposed to be called Phatages Africanus and Dasypus vellerosus.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY .-- April 10 .-Sir R. I. Murchison, President, in the chair. The first paper, by Mr. W. E. Hickson, was "On

the Climate of the North Pole." The object of

the author was to prove, by the known direction of the isothermal lines of the globe, and the position of the polar areas with regard to the sun, that the still prevalent notion of a maximum of cold at the Poles was quite erroneous.

The second paper was "On the best Route for North Polar Exploration," by Mr. C. R. Markham. The author stated that a plan for a Polar Expedition vid Smith Sound was conceived, and deliberately weighed by himself and Captain Sherard Osborn in the month of October last, the opportunity appearing to Captain Osborn favourable for the resumption of Arctic enterprise. It had now devolved upon him, since the departure of Captain Osborn for India, to meet and answer the various objections which were now made to the Smith Sound route. The chief of these was the preliminary difficulty of reaching the base of operations, on account of the pack-ice in Baffin's Bay, it having been urged in favour of giving the Spitzbergen base the preference, that this difficulty did not there exist. as there was open sea all the way every summer. The author contended that the Baffin's Bay obstacle had been much exaggerated, and he enumerated no less than thirty-eight exploring ships which had successfully passed the pack-ice; there had been only two failures, and these arose from the impatience of their commanders, who quitted the secure route along the land floe to penetrate the pack. The great advantage of the route from Smith Sound to the Pole over that from Spitzbergen was, that by sledging along and surveying the shores of Greenland, we were sure of making great geographical and scientific dis-coveries, even if we failed in the main object; whereas if an expedition failed vid Spitzbergen, the ships would have simply scored a track through a few miles of frozen sea and come back

The President, in reviewing the advantages of the two projects which had now been brought before the Society, said that he wished to adduce a few considerations which had occurred to him in support of the belief of an open sea around the North Pole. 1. The fact has been wellascertained by Scoresby and others, that every portion of the floating pack-ice north of Spitz-bergen is made up of frozen sea-water only, without a trace of terrestrial icebergs like those which float down Baffin's Bay, or those which, carrying blocks of stone and débris, float northwards from the lands around the South Pole. 2. The northern shores of Siberia tell the same tale : for in their vast expanse the absence of icebergs or erratic blocks, or anything which can have been derived from great or lofty masses of land to the north, has been well ascertained. 3. As a geologist, he would point out that this absence of erratic blocks in Northern Siberia has existed from that remote glacial period when much larger tracts of Northern Europe were occupied by glaciers than at the present day. He had himself followed the northern erratic blocks (originally transported on icebergs from Scandinavia) in northern Germany and Russia, which blocks no longer appeared on the east of the Ural Mountains. 4. The traveller Middendorf found the extreme northern promontory of Siberia, Taimyr, clad with fir-trees, whilst the immense tract of country to the south of it was destitute of arboreal vegetation, showing a milder climate at the point of Siberia nearest the Pole. It now remained to decide upon the best plan for reaching the Polynia of this induction. There could be no doubt that great additions to various branches of physical science would more certainly accrue from the adoption of the Smith Sound route, as it would lead along the shores of Greenland, than from the purely maritime expedition to the north of Spitzbergen. But they were not called upon to express their opinion in favour of one or the other plan. It will be for the Council of the Society, aided by the advice of the Councils of other scientific societies, so to put the case before the Admiralty and Her Majesty's Government as to secure the fulfilment of a great geographical object. The object will be attained by those means which our rulers may deem to be the most efficacious after consultation with the officer appointed to lead the expeditions, and after a due consideration of the evidence which has been elicited in the progress of these discussions. He believed it unnecessary to combat the feeble arguments of those who oppose the expedition on the score of danger. Surely the British navy had not come to that condition that with their present great means and appliances they could not emulate the efforts of Hudson and the Elizabethan voyagers in their little cock-boats!

The President then read portions of a letter which he had just received from Lady Franklin,

dated from Madrid, April 6. Her ladyship expressed her earnest wishes for the promotion of the expedition. It was due to England and those who had gone before, that no other country should have the honour of being the first to make such a discovery. There was no better time than the present one, whilst we had with us, still in the prime of life, officers like M Clintock, and a host of hardy seamen trained to Arctic voyages. It would be unreasonable and much to be deplored if the fate of her husband and his companions were to be made an official objection to all future Arctic exploration. They met with the unhappy end which often befalls the pioneers in tentative enterprises, but they rest alone in their awful calamity. With the increased knowledge and better appliances now at our command, no repetition of such a catastrophe need be dreamed of.

Captain Inglefield, although quite agreeing in the practicability of reaching the North Pole by way of Smith Sound, believed that the safest and shortest route was that to the north of Spitzbergen. As to the cost, Parry's voyage cost only 9,9771.; and the expedition sent out by Lady Franklin-a screw-steamer supplied with every necessary for two years and a-half-cost

only 10,412l. Commander J. E. Davis, R.N., gave a graphic description of the ice-fields in the Antarctic zone, which he penetrated when serving under Sir James Ross in the Antarctic expedition, and described the permanent ice-barrier which they met with after entering the open sea beyond the pack, and which, in a length of 450 miles effectually barred all approach to the Pole. If such a permanent barrier exist around the North Pole, it would be impossible to reach the Pole itself; but, if there is open sea, the existence of a wide belt of pack around it is by no means an unsurmountable obstacle, as is well proved by Antarctic experience, and the best plan for penetrating it is to take well-fortified steamers by the Spitzbergen route. If an expedition is to be sent to the Antarctic lands in 1882 to observe the transit of Venus, it is absolutely necessary that men should be educated to meet that requirement, and the North is the school to prepare for the University of the South.

Captain Allen Young, R.N., was in favour of expeditions being sent by both routes. He thought the dangers of Melville Bay had been much exaggerated. If an expedition were to start on the plan of passing one or two winters in the Arctic regions, he should decidedly prefer Smith Sound; but if it were only a summer

journey, he would say, go by Spitzbergen.

Mr. Lamont related the substance of many conversations he had had with Norwegian walrushunters, during two summers he had spent at Spitzbergen, with regard to the regions to the northward. All of them scouted the idea of an open Polar Sea. He was inclined himself to believe in the existence of land north of Spitzbergen, and had seen true icebergs, though he confessed there were no terrestrial débris upon them. If an open Polar sea existed, the question could be decided by a small screw-steamer in three months; but the plan he advocated was sledging to the Pole from Spitzbergen in March and April, after a winter spent in hunting and laying in provisions. In Smith Sound the danger would be want of food; but in Spitzbergen nothing of the sort could be feared, as he himself with his companion had shot 200 large animals in two seasons, and some of the valleys swarmed with deer.

Before the meeting was adjourned, the S tary read an official communication from the Linnean Society, strongly in favour of the pro-posed expedition. In this document the much smaller risk of life in Polar exploration than in African and other expeditions was remarked on, and an outline given of the range of subjects within the domain of Biology upon which light could be thrown only by a scientific expedition towards the Pole.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.—April 3.—Sir E. Colebrooke, Bart., M.P., President, in the chair. Mr. W. D. Vawdrey was elected a resident member. Mr. J. W. Redhouse delivered a lecture "On the Ritualistic Life of a Hanefi Muslim in Turkey, from Birth to Burial," a subject which he said was suggested to him by a lecture on a similar topic recently given in the same room by Dr. Vambery. The Hanefi is one of the four sects of the Sunni, or orthodox branch of Islam, and is generally represented in Turkey, whereas the Shu, or heterodox branch, has innumerable subdivisions. After some preliminary discussion on the absence of a sacerdotal class amongst the Mussulmans, every

man being a priest, and on the various classes of Dervishes, the lecturer gave a detailed account of the rites attending the birth of a Turkish child, of the ceremony of giving it a name, and of the feast made on this occasion. He next described the child's first going to school, the festivities to which this event gives rise, the nature of the teaching a child at school receives, and the ceremony of circum-The various religious duties which a Muslim has to practise were then mentioned in detail, such as the different rules and usages concerning ablutions, fasts and prayers, and the pilgrimage to Mecca. Mr. Redhouse then proceeded to give an account of the ceremonies attendant on betrothal and marriage, and of the rights of both partise as to property, touching also upon polygamy and concubinage, and described, in conclusion, the last stage in a Muslim's life, and the practices concerning burial and the willing of property.

BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION. -April 12.—Mr. H. Syer Cuming, Hon. Sec., in the chair. Mr. Josiah Cato, of Kendal House, North Brixton, was elected an associate.

Mr. Gunston exhibited a statuette of a hunter, from the collection of the late Mr. Litchfield, who had marked it as a "Roman bronze found in London." He also exhibited a portion of an enamelled bronze hook or clasp, sculptured with Runie knots, found in Chinnor Churchyard, Oxon. Mr. Clarence Hopper exhibited impressions from three fine seals, one of which, of vesical shape, bore the legend: "+ S. Thome De Climpinge Sacerdot." The matrix is of brass, and belongs to the thirteenth century. circular seal also of the same period, belonging to the Sisters of St. Victor in Utrecht, bearing a nimbed equestrian figure. A shield-shaped seal of the fourteenth century, representing the Virgin crowned, nursing the infant Jesus, an Ecclesiastic kneeling in front. In the field is "Ave Maria," and on the verge "S. Alexandri de Asteleya Clerici.'

The Rev. Mr. Kell exhibited the iron barrel of a Fetter Lock, found under a house at Winchester. Mr. Cato exhibited the carving of a musician, which formed part of a series of minstrels formerly in Brandenburg House. It is of the sixteenth century.

Lord Baston exhibited some fine specimens of crutch handles of walking sticks of the seventeenth century, in rich red coral, representing the heads of a camel and a collared dog emerging from a bivalve shell, another of wax-coloured amber, figuring a blunt-nosed dog, and feathers like nautilus shells.

Mr. Cuming also exhibited some of the time of Charles II., one of impressed horn found in Fleet Ditch, 1847. Mr. Powell exhibited a Chinese glazed brick, from a Porcelain tower, made in a shape to economize material in the facing of buildings.

Mr. T. W. King gave a notice of the col-lection of MSS. in the College of Arms for the County of Suffolk, which was directed to be printed with Lord Gosford's Suffolk collections in the Journal. Mr. Gordon Hills, in the absence of Mr. Pettigrew, read his paper on Roman materials found in the Church of Bradford-on-Avon, and from various particulars determined the sculptured sepulchral figure found therein to be that of Agnes, relict of Reginald de Aulâ, a great benefactor to Bradford in the thirteenth century. The paper gave rise to considerable discussion, in which Mr. Gordon Hills pointed out the simiwhat he had met with in Ireland, and of which he produced drawings. These, with the paper, will appear in the Journal of the Society.

#### EDINBURGH.

ROYAL SOCIETY. - April 3. - Professor Kelland, V.P., in the chair.

1. At the request of the Council, Professor Lyon Playfair, C.B., gave an address "On the Diet of Man in Relation to his Useful Work," "On the Diet of the Royal Engineers stationed at Chatham" (the abstract of this paper we have already given).

2. "Notice of a large Calcareous Stalagmite, brought from the Island of Bermuda in the year 1819, and now in the College of Edinburgh." By Mr. D. M. Holme.

3. "Examination of Storms of Wind which occurred in Europe in October, November, and December, 1863." By Mr. Alexander Buchan. Secretary of the Scottish Meteorological Society.

Communicated by Mr. D. M. Holme.
4. Dr. A. Crum Brown communicated some remarks "On the Use of Graphic Representations of Chemical Formulæ;" and pointed out an

error into which Professor Kekulé has been led (by his peculiar notation) in a paper published in the February number of the Bulletin de la Société Chimique de Paris.

#### MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY, APRIL 24.

ANTIQUARIES, at 2.—Somerset House.

PHILOSOPHICAL CLUB, at 6.

Institute of Actualies, at 7.—12 St. James's Square. 1. "On the Graduation of a Table of Mortality:" Mr. G. W. Berridge 2. "On Government Insurance Rates and Regulations:" Mr. M. N. Adler.

BRITISH ARCHITECTS, at 8.-9 Conduit Street, Hanover Square. GEOGRAPHICAL, at 8.30.—15 Whitehall Place. Sir R. I. Murchison - K.C.B., President, in the chair. 1. "On the Bayanos River, in the 1sthmus of Panama:" Mr. Lawrence Oliphant. 2. "A Journey from the Foot of Chimborazo to Bogota, across the Central Andes:" Mr. R. Cross.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 4.—Albemarle Street. "On Organic Chemistry:" Professor Frankland.

CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.—25 Great George Street, Westminster.

1. Discussion upon Captain Tyler's paper, "On the Festiniog Railway." 2. "On Uniform Stress in Girder Work:" Mr. Calcott Reilly, Assoc. Inst. C.E.

ETHNOLOGICAL, at 8.—4 St. Martin's Place. "Observations on the Peculiarities of National Pronunciation as a Means of Tracing the Origin and History of Nations:" Rev. James Brodie.

Society of Arts, at 8.—John Street, Adelphi. "On Some of the Most Important Chemical Discoveries made within the last Two Years:" Dr. F. C. Calvert. (Cantor Lecture.)

Zoological, at 8.30.—11 Hanover Square. 1. "On Some rare and little known Mammals of Western Africa in the Lisbon Museum:" Dr. Bartoza du Bocaze. 2. "On the Systematic Position of the Genus Plataconthomys: "Dr. Peters. Medical and Chirurgical, at 8.30.—53 Berners Street, Oxford Street.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE, at 4 .- 4 St. Martin's Place.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE, at 4.—4 St. Martin's Place.

Society of Arts, at 8.—John Street, Adelphi. "On the Wear and Tear of Steam Boilers:" Mr. F. A. Paget.

Geological, at 8.—Somerset House. I. "On the Character of the Cephalopodous Fauna of the South Indian Cretaceous Rocks:" Dr. F. Stoliczka. Communicated by the Assistant-Secretary. 2. "On the Growth of Flos Ferri, or Coralloidal Aragonite:" Mr. W. Wallace. Communicated by Mr. W. W. Smyth. 3. "Notes accompanying some Specimens of Clay in more or less Regular Rhomboids:" Sir J. F. W. Herschel. Extracted from Letters to Sir C. Lyell.

Argumentagical Association at 8.30.—32 Sackville Street. "On

Archeological Association, at 8.30.—32 Sackville Street. "On Brasses in Tideswell Church, Derby:" Mr. Augustus Gold-smid. Continuation of the late Earl of Gosford's MS. Collec-tions relating to Suffolk.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27. ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 4.—Albemarle Street, "On Organic Chemistry:" Professor Frankland.

ROYAL SOCIETY CLUB, at 6 .- St. James's Hotel. ROYAL, at 8.30.—Burlington House.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 8.—Albemarle Street. "On the Diet of Man: "Professor Lyon Playfair.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29.

Zoological, at 1.—11 Hanover Square. Anniversary. ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Albemarle Street. "On the Physical Accompaniments of Mind:" Professor Bain.

#### ART NOTES.

THE sale of the late Duc de Morny's gallery of paintings will take place in June. The catalogue will be ready next month, and may be had of any of the London foreign booksellers.

On Saturday last Mr. Friend had the honour of submitting for Her Majesty's inspection his drawings of the Falls of Niagara, executed by him for his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

THE Queen of Spain has sent about fifty pictures from the National Gallery, Madrid, to the Dublin International Exhibition, and has named six gentlemen as Royal Commissioners for that country.

THE Dublin International Exhibition medal has been designed by Wollier Geefs, of Brussels, the well-known medallist. It represents the Spirit of Progress in arts and manufactures enriching Ireland from an overflowing cornucopiæ. The building placed in the background, and as of industry, mark the period various emb

of Ireland's national progress. THE sale of a large collection of the late John Leech's original designs is about to take place at the rooms of Messrs. Christie, Kingstreet, St. James's. The exhibition was open to private view on Wednesday last. The collection comprises, according to the catalogue, the original designs for the political pictures of life and character which have appeared in Punch during the last twenty years, and also the designs for the "Ingoldsby Legends," "Jorrocks's Hunt," "Ask Mamma," "Mr. Facey Romford's Hounds," and other sporting novels, &c. The lots number in all 659; but, in a great many instances, there are several separate sketches—sometimes not less than nine or ten-in one frame. Some are so sufficiently finished to convey the idea that Leech intended to preserve them, whilst others are nothing more than the barest outlines, apparently dashed off as mere memoranda for future guidance. In addition to the pencil sketches just alluded to, there are several pictures in oil by Mr. Leech, many of which are now seen for the first time, whilst others were formerly exhibited at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.

#### MUSIC.

#### THE OPERAS.

Our opera season, like our spring and Easter, is to be a late one, it seems, this year. The house in the Haymarket is delaying its opening another week (being still in the hands of carpenters and upholsterers), and most of the particular stars who are to shine at "Covent Garden" are still below the horizon. But we have had one appearance of signal interest; Signor Mario has resumed his old part of the "Prophète," "for the tirst time," as the announcements have it, "these twelve years."

To those who know what the "Prophète" is, and what Signor Mario is-a category which includes we hope all our readers—the fact will seem a strange illustration of the present condition of vocal art. It is now seventeen years ago that Meyerbeer's third "great" opera was brought out in England. It was one of the earliest of the series of magnificent achievements which has placed our Covent Garden stage first among the opera houses of the world, and the part of the fanatic hero was given to Signor Mario, then in his tenth English season and in his full noon of vocal power. Some three or four years later, the part was assumed by Signor Tamberlik, who kept it till the great fire took the piece for a time out of the repertoire, and who has since held it unchallenged upon this stage. It is a bold venture of Signor Mario to attack again a part which, though one of his finest in his finest days, was always a great strain upon his powers. Even when he first essayed it, some of the more exhausting passages of the music had to be cut out to spare a throat which was never steeled against fatigue. This, however, was no great marvel. The composer's great scores, from "Robert" downwards, have had to endure this process of adaptation to human infirmity. "L'Africaine" is just now undergoing it at the hands of M. Fetis-for Meyerbeer, like Beethoven, never would learn that the throats of men and women are not made of the same materials as hautbois and trombones. But to reassume such a part as "Le Prophète', with powers long past their prime, is indeed to risk a trying ordeal. The result could not, of course, be for a moment doubtful. Signor Mario struggles, and struggles manfully, but again and again he is thrown. His voice is now a mere wreck. No softer phrase will describe its condition. At rare moments, indeed, we hear notes as beautiful as ever-rich, golden-toned, heart-moving; but the rest are thick, muffled, and weak, and are only delivered by a painful effort. Where pathos, not force, is wanted, his tones can still charm even to fascination; he has, indeed, the rare power of making his very weakness, in some passages, help the fascination. In the passionate music of the garden scene in "Faust," for instance, he seems to force an extra thrill of tenderness out of the tremor of infirmity. But where it is a question of force, of declaiming a war-song, or heading a bacchanal orgie, the voice no longer answers to the effort, the weak flesh refuses the task put upon it by the willing spirit. And, unfortunately, the spirit itself is touched by the deficiency, for apparently in this severe music the consciousness of being over-weighted takes away, at times, the elasticity of Signor Mario's acting. He bears himself, indeed, throughout with the old dignity (a dignity, it may be said, in passing, which makes John of Leyden almost too much of a gentleman); but in the more trying scenes, as in that of the revolt, followed by the prayer and the battle-hymn, the failure of vocal means sensibly damps the ardour of the actor. In some places, too, Signor Mario has to do terrible violence to the text. The effect of the splendid hymn, "Re del cielo," with which the prophet leads the rush to the assault of Munster, lies chiefly, as all will remember, in those splendid ascending phrases (one especially rising to a climax on the seventh of the key) which distinguish the solo from the answering strophe of the chorus; but Signor Mario is obliged to cut down his own part to the chorus pattern, thus sacrificing utterly the "point" which carries this magnificent scene to its climax.

These are serious deficiencies, and it would serve no good purpose to disguise them; yet we are bound to admit that it is better to see Signor Mario in the "Prophète" than not to see the "Prophète" at all—better, perhaps, to see him than any other impersonator of the part. For, besides Signor Tamberlik (whose absence, by the way, this season is unexplained), who is there on the Italian stage fit to measure himself with this veteran artist, shadow as he is, vocally, of

his former self? Dreary indeed seem the present prospects of the lyric art. For the first time, probably, since opera was opera, great works have to be all but shelved for lack of artists to sing them. Of two things, one-either dramatic music has violated its natural laws of development by making excessive demands on the physical powers of the vocalists, or the vocal art is in a state of decay. Whatever truth there may be in the first suggestion, the last is certainly the fact. When it is to be mended, and how, are grave questions. Meanwhile, we must be content to choose, for the higher employments of our musical stage, between singers who can sing, but have no voices, and those who have voices, but cannot sing. For examples of both orders we need go no farther than Covent Garden. For the first group, the stars of a past or passing generation, it is rather a proud position than otherwise. The mere presence of Signor Mario on our stage is a homage to the supremacy of art—a rebuke to the conceit of our generation. It was Nature, indeed, that gave him that lovely voice, but the power of fascinating still, with physical powers weakened by thirty years of triumph, is due to an artistic culture which the present generation disdains. A public which rushes after "phenomena," which is ecstatic over a shout or a scream—a C di petto, or an F in altissimo, will certainly not have, as it certainly does not deserve to have, Marios and Grisis to

The debût of a new singer in the part of Fides gives further interest to the performances of this opera—Madlle. de Edelsberg, of whom we know no more than that, as the programme announces, she comes from the Hof Theater, at Munich. She has a mezzo-soprano voice of sufficient range and considerable power, especially in its upper half, and she sings with thoroughly Teutonic earnestness. Of the rest of the performance it is needless to speak, save only to add, as in duty bound, at the beginning of a new season, that Signor Costa and his band remain in statu quo; there is no weakening of the superb richness of tone, or slackening of the energetic discipline, which have made the name of the Covent Garden band a synonym for ne plus ultra of orchestral perfection. The gorgeous Coronation March, as they give it here, is indeed a march of triumph.

Herr Wachtel has been singing in the "Trovatore" and in "Guillaume Tell." Such as he was last season, such he appears to be still, though some listeners think they detect the signs of his having been studying in the interval. We can find nothing to indicate this. His upper C still rings through the great house like the blast of a trumpet, and his performance is still entirely destitute of every quality that makes good singing, save only the merit of being generally in good tune. With this exception, his vocalization is just that of a half-taught amateur, without the taste which sometimes makes amends for amateur incapacity. In more than one sense, his presence on this stage is a marvel.

## A COMEDY AT THE "ITALIENS." (From a Correspondent)

Paris, April 10.

In the present dearth of operatic novelties, you may be perhaps interested to hear of a reprise of a comic opera at the "Italiens," which bids fair, slight as the work is, to be one of the happy hits of M. Bagier's management. The piece in question excited, on the first night, a real enthusiasm and success, which will go on, I should think, crescendo to the end of the season. The title is "Crispino e la Comara" ("Comara" = "Commère," "gossip," or "auld wife"). The libretto fantastico-giocoso (sic) by Signor Piave, the scene Venice, and the music by the two brothers Ricci; it being the only work on which they laboured in concert. The name of Ricci will remind you of Le Scaramuccia, Chiara di Rosenberg, Corrado di Altamuza, &c., and how Luigi Ricci died a few years ago in Bohemia. Federigo is still living, but has ceased to write for the stage. Nothing can be more absurd than the plot. Crispino is neither the Crispinus of Horace nor the Crispin of Molière, but a poor cobbler, struggling hard to live by his trade and by the sale of old ballads and story-books, hawked about the streets by his wife Annetta. But nothing will do; he is distrained for rent by his landlord, who happens to be a great doctor, and hunted out of house and home by duns and creditors. So he is on the point of throwing himself into a well, when suddenly a sombre figure of the feminine gender rises out of it, listens to Crispino's story, promises her protection, throws him a heavy bag of gold, and finally offers him the means of revenging himself on his persecuting landlord by transforming him from a cobbler into a great doctor, capable of confounding the whole faculty. "But why so kind to me?" asks *Crispino*, and the answer is—

Voi punir di certi medici La superba asinità !

The fairy then explains to him that whenever he visits a patient he may be assured of a recovery, unless the Comara herself should appear at the bedside. With this assurance, and with his newly-acquired gold, Crispino renovates his house and wardrobe, dons the medical garb, and defies the whole faculty. His skill is soon put to the proof in the case of a bricklayer, who has fallen from the top of a house, and been pro-nounced defunct by the regular doctors. He prescribes a bottle of Bordeaux, which he drinks himself, and then blows in the face of the departed, who is speedily restored to life. This leads to a grand triumph and glorification of the cobbler, and to the utter confusion of the regular practitioners; and thus ends the second act. Success, however, turns the poor cobbler's head : he becomes unbearable both at home and abroad, insults his friends and bullies his wife. He is even mad enough to set his Comara, at defiance, whereupon, after sundry warnings, like those of the statue in Don Giovanni, she carries him off to the lower regions. Then we are introduced to a scene in the other world, with gigantic figures of Time and Judgment, and a change of La Comara herself into La Mort, and other horrors, which bring the cobbler on his knees to implore a little respite, and promise amendment. His prayer is granted, and he suddenly finds himself in his own house at Venice, just awakening from a trance brought on by a bilious fever, with his wife and friends weeping and praying by his bedside. Now all this nonsense is readily condoned for the sake of the music, which is in the highest degree captivating and 'entrainante.' The two prominent parts are, of course, those of the cobbler and his wife, played to perfection by Zucchini and Mdlle. Vitali, for whom they might have been thought especially written. The lady in particular, with rather a thin voice—you have heard her, I think, at Her Majesty's - took the audience by surprise by her display of vocaliza-tion, and acted her part with a grace and abandon that captivated everybody. All the other characters were well done, but it is the special merits of the two performers just mentioned which will ensure full houses to the end of the season. The opera is familiarly known in Italy, but this is its first appearance in Paris. Such music as this would cure anyone of the spleen; its gaiety is exuberant, and the fun never flags for an instant.

#### MUSICAL NOTES.

#### HERR JOACHIM IN PARIS.

An English amateur sends us the following note of Herr Joachim's appearance at the "Concert Spirituel" of the Conservatoire (his first appearance in Paris) on Sunday evening last. "He played," says our correspondent, "Beethoven's 'Concerto,' his greatest achievement. There was, perhaps, a shade of risk in coming before a French audience for the first time with so grand and severe a work, interpreted in a style so broad and noble, and so entirely free from anything ad captandum; but the event proved the wisdom of the choice. The applause was immense—spontaneous and continual. At the end of the first movement, M. Hänl, the conductor, warmly embraced the great violinist, amid the loudest plaudits of audience and band. At the conclusion of the concerto, Mr. Joachim was twice recalled.

"Of the performance there is little to add to what you have so often said already in praise and gratitude to Mr. Joachim. If one were to say that it was, perhaps, not quite equal to that of the same Concerto at the Philharmonic on 30th May last, it would be no detraction; for that was a thorough prodigy—a happy chance which no one will ever enjoy again, and which no one who did enjoy can ever forget. Can it have been that the ordeal of facing the renowned audience of the Conservatoire for the first time had a little shaken the iron nerves

even of Mr. Joachim?

"It is unnecessary to say that the accompaniments to the Concerto were everything that could be desired or even conceived. The perfection of the wind instruments in this orchestra is incredible, and alone worth a journey to Paris to hear. There was but one drawback to the whole—the vicious, though characteristic, habit of the Parisians of applauding a brilliant solo

passage, to the disregard of what follows it; which in Beethoven does not always do. Thus, amongst others, the entrance of the horns near the end of the *Larghetto* (after the three shakes in the solo violin)—one of the most lovely things in the whole realm of music—was entirely lost.

in the whole realm of music—was entirely lost.

"The symphonies were, Beethoven in A, and Mozart in G minor. The room was crowded—literally to suffocation—with a brilliant audience, Auber, Heller, Jaell, Lotto, Madame Szarvady, and all the virtuosi were there."

The Choral Symphony of Beethoven is to be done to-day at the Crystal Palace, the band and chorus being reinforced for this occasion. The admirable system of making the daily play a perpetual rehearsal for the Saturday's concerts gives this band an immeasurable advantage over every other that we know of. The result of such careful preparation ought to make itself felt in a performance of this grand work. The last few concerts have not been less interesting than usual. At one of them, Miss Agnes Zimmerman, who is rapidly and deservedly becoming an accepted "classical" pianist, played the G minor Concerto of Mendelssohn. The same day was noticeable for such a performance of the "Eroica" symphony as is not often heard.

MADAME CLARA SCHUMANN is to be apparently the lionne of our current musical season. The rehearsal for Dr. Wylde's "Philharmonic," this day, is to be the occasion of her first appearance; and on Tuesday she is to play at the Musical Union, taking the piano part of the great quintett which is such a noble monument of her husband's genius. She is also, we understand, to be the soloist at the next concert of the Musical Society, where she will play the immortal Fifth Concerto of Beethoven.

The "serious" concert season of Paris is now at its height. M. Pasdeloup tried the other day the bold experiment, never, probably, attempted before out of Germany, of giving three of Beethoven's "Leonora" overtures in succession at one concert. Mendelssohn, it will be remembered, did the same thing when he was director of the "Gewandhaus."

Rossini's new mass, the same which was sung at Count Pillet-Will's this time last year, was lately performed again in the same house. We observe also that Madame Sherrington has been winning honours as a concert singer.

Mr. Santley is at length, we are glad to see, coming back to us. He is announced to sing in the Creation for the National Choral Society on the 26th. He has been gathering laurels, of course, enough and to spare, at Barcelona.

On Sunday last the Società Filarmonica Partenopea, in Naples, gave its first "Accademia Musicale" in the theatre of the Winter-garden. The sinfonia in the "Coriolano" of Beethoven was admirably executed; and after it, by a full orchestra, the "Stabat Mater" of Maestro Giorgio Micelli. The efforts of this voluntary institution of artistes and amateurs formed two or three years since, to raise the tone of Italian composition, deserve all encouragement and praise, and have met with much success.

THE death of Signor Geremia Beltini, the famous Italian tenor, is reported. He was, we believe, a brother of the well-known singer of the same name, Alessandro Beltini, who was not long ago married to Madame Trebelli.

THE Musical World announces, on "good authority," that Signor Giuglini is being "rapidly restored to health."

#### MUSIC FOR NEXT WEEK.

APRIL 24 to 29.

MONDAY.—Mr. R. Blagrove's First Concertina Concert, Beethoven Rooms.

TUESDAY.—Musical Union, First Matinée, St. James's Hall, 3.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY.—New Philharmonic, Second Concert, St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.

"Creation," National Choral Society, Exeter Hall. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY.—Dr. Austen Pearce's Second Matinée, Store Street Rooms.

SATURDAY.—Crystal Palace Orchestral Concert, 3 p.m.; Beethoven Society, Willis's Rooms, 3 p.m.

OPERAS.—Covent Garden, "Prophète," "Faust," "Guillaume Tell," "Il Ballo," &c.

#### THE DRAMA.

EASTER week has come and gone without that rush of theatrical novelties which used to make it a festival specially devoted to the drama. Railroads now provide the seasonable diversions of country excursions, and the healthful pleasures of fresh air and rapid travelling have superseded the tinsel glories of the Easter

extravaganza. Still, we have a few theatrical novelties to record. First, the transformation of a dingy little old-fashioned theatre into a spic and span new one of the most fascinating kind. The Queen's Theatre in Tottenham-street has, by the magical aid of Mr. E. Bradwell, the well-known decorator, been transformed into an elegant place of theatrical resort. It was opened last Saturday as the Prince of Wales's Theatre. The management is confided to Miss Marie Wilton, an actress of great powers, though they have been but partially and occasionally developed. Had this young actress fallen on better times of the drama—that is, when there was more opportunity of displaying great ability for characterization, and all the graces of high comic acting—she might have ranked with the Abingtons and Jordans, and other tra-ditionary celebrities of the English stage. As it is, her sense, spirit, and manner enable her to give vitality to many an author's creation, which would otherwise be void and formless. The object of this new theatre is to provide the lighter and brighter portion of the modern drama, which, appealing more particularly to the young, the wealthy, and the gay, is not prone to be prosy; and which, though when tastefully conducted never offends against good manners or sound morality, yet does its spiriting rather with a cheerful aspect and a merry laugh, than with more serious chiding. The new pieces were a comedietta, called "A pieces were a comedietta, called "A Winning Hazard," by Mr. J. P. Wooller, and a completely new burlesque, by Mr. H. Byron, of "La Sonnambula!" The comedietta is not withoutan idea, and with some of the vis comica, but there is a vulgarity of allusion and manner which is too common in such pieces, and which this theatre would do well carefully to avoid; nothing intentionally coarse, but kinds of allusions which persons of the rank of its performers certainly do not indulge in. Whatever may be our morals, and whatever the brusqueness of our manners, no persons of refinement refer to our demi monde in the same way as to genuine ladies. Mr. Byron's burlesque of "Sonnambula" is in every respect admirable. This writer is certainly the foremost of his class. He has treated the subject very cleverly, and it is acted remarkably well; a thing, by the way, as necessary to burlesque as to any other branch of the drama. Mr. J. Clarke is the Amina, and sufficiently burlesques the sentiment without too much vulgarizing the part. Miss F. Josephs is a pleasing Elvino, singing very nicely. Mr. Dewar is a capital count of the old melo-dramatic sort, and starts at the appearance of any new comer with an agonizing cry of "Ah! that face," which caused constant laughter. The part of Allesrio has been written for Miss Marie Wilton, and she plays it with all the point and grace which she so abundantly possesses. The scenery, by Mr. C. S. James, is extremely pretty and picturesque, and all the appointments are in admirable keeping. There is a transformation scene, after the fashion of such things, consisting of wreaths of foliage, tinsil, lime-lights, and pose plastique ladies, very good of its sort, and very expensive in its production, but not at all required in a theatre which seems very justly to rest its claims to notice on good acting and smart writing, piquantly aided by picturesque scenery and careful production.

The great theatrical event of the week has been the production of "Comus" at Drury Lanewe cannot quite say Milton's "Comus," because the exquisite original, in its pure state, is certainly not calculated to excite the attention of a very large mixed audience. That it is not suited to stage performance in its original form is proved by a century elapsing before it was put on the public stage, although any such production was eagerly sought for by theatrical managers. In 1738 Dr. Arne, then a young musical composer of great promise, at the suggestion of Dr. Dalton, a man of taste who had adapted "Comus," composed the principal part of the music. It was for a time popular, and has been revived at intervals. with alterations by Colman the elder, in 1772, several times subsequently, and lastly by Macready in 1843, who himself played Comus, Miss Faucit enacting the Lady, and Mr. Anderson the Elder Brother. The present version is that which has been generally received on its revival; the additions being selections from other works of the poet, with the exception of a song given to Mr. Wilbye Cooper, which Mr. Falconer has paraphrased from Milton and Spenser. Of course, the pure, exquisite, delicate poem, so finely mingling realities and classical fiction (to the great disgust of Dr. Johnson, by the way), would be lost on the stage, and on four thousand miscellaneous personages. It has to be sustained by scenery, music, and making the most of the revels; and these are rendered as well as the circumstances will allow at Drury Lane. The wood scenery is really picturesque, and the Hall of Comus, though not remarkable for imagination, is stately and spacious, and the change to Sabrina's coral home is really artistic. The rout of monsters that attend Comus are well depicted, being careful impersonations of Poussin's classical renderings of these heathenish poetical scenes. The Nymphs, habited after the Grecian fashion, have a fanciful effect; and the dances are more than the common stage ballets. The musical portion is pleasingly rendered by Miss Poole, Miss A. Thomson, Mr. Wilbye Cooper, and Mr. Henri Drayton. Mr. Walter Lacy is a jovial and not vulgar Comus; Mrs. Herman Vezin an interesting Lady; and Mr. E. Phelps declaimed the little blank verse he has to utter, carefully. As a spectacle it will hold its place; but it has no interest as a drama, not by any means so much even as "Manfred."

At the New Royalty, which prides itself on its band of pretty actresses and its low comedy actors, a new burlesque, by Mr. F. C. Burnand, has been produced. Having made a great success out of "Ixion," he now continues the family history, and gives the story of Pirithous's attempt on Proserpine, the Queen of Hades, which brought him into as bad a plight as the attempt in a contrary direction on the Queen of Olympus did Ixion his father. Hercules is here represented as a modern pugilist; and Theseus as a horse-rider; and the Centaurs by what is termed the Jockey Club of the Cirque Imperiale, Thessaly. Those who are not particular as to rhyme, and care nothing for reason, will be amused by the glittering show, the pretty faces, and the grotesque conduct, and will have a couple of hours wiled away with this burlesque.

At the Lyceum, M. Fechter reappeared, bringing with him his little son. He produced a version, new to our stage, of the drama called "Paillasse," originally brought out at the Gaieté, and imported into this country, under the name of "Belphegor," by Mr. Webster, at the Adelphi. It is now called the "Mountebank." We must defer our notice of it.

At the St. James's, a new burlesque was brought out to introduce Mr. F. Robson, the son of the famous actor. He played in Mr. Burnand's new burlesque of "Ulysses," and proved himself a clever dancer and burlesque actor. He has much of the intensity of his father, and may possess his powers of characterization, but of course could but display little of it in the part he appeared in.

At the Strand, a piece full of domestic character, entitled "One Tree Hill," was produced. It is by Mr. Craven, the author of "Milky White" and several clever dramas, in which the author always finds a part suitable to his own acting powers, which are considerable. It was perfectly successful; but not quite so interesting as "Milky White," which had an unusual run.

The Princess's is contented with its success of "Arrah na Pogue." The Haymarket feels the "Woman in Mauve" and "Dundreary Married" sufficient. The Adelphi brought out its burlesque of "Pan," the week before the holiday time.

THE Egyptian Hall has now become a regular place of resort for all who disapprove of going to see a play. To such persons it would be superfluous to recommend the entertainment which Colonel Stodare gave, for the first time in London, on Easter Monday. It is so good of its kind, that even habitual playgoers will do well to witness it. Colonel Stodare displays great power as a ventriloquist, and as a performer of sleight-of-hand tricks he has few equals. Tricks which others cannot perform without the aid of an assistant he does alone. Moreover, he has mastered some of those marvellous feats in which the Indian magicians excel. Among these are, "the instantaneous growth of flower-trees," and the "basket feat." The latter is rather trying to the nerves of the spectators, and might be modified without rendering it less extraordinary. A performer so thoroughly a master of his art as Colonel Stodare might dispense with the distribution of articles of trifling value among his audience. This savours too much of the country fair. He would certainly have, as he deserves to have, large audiences to witness his really clever per-formance even if he refrained from scattering among them cheap fans, watches, chains, and sweetmeats.

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